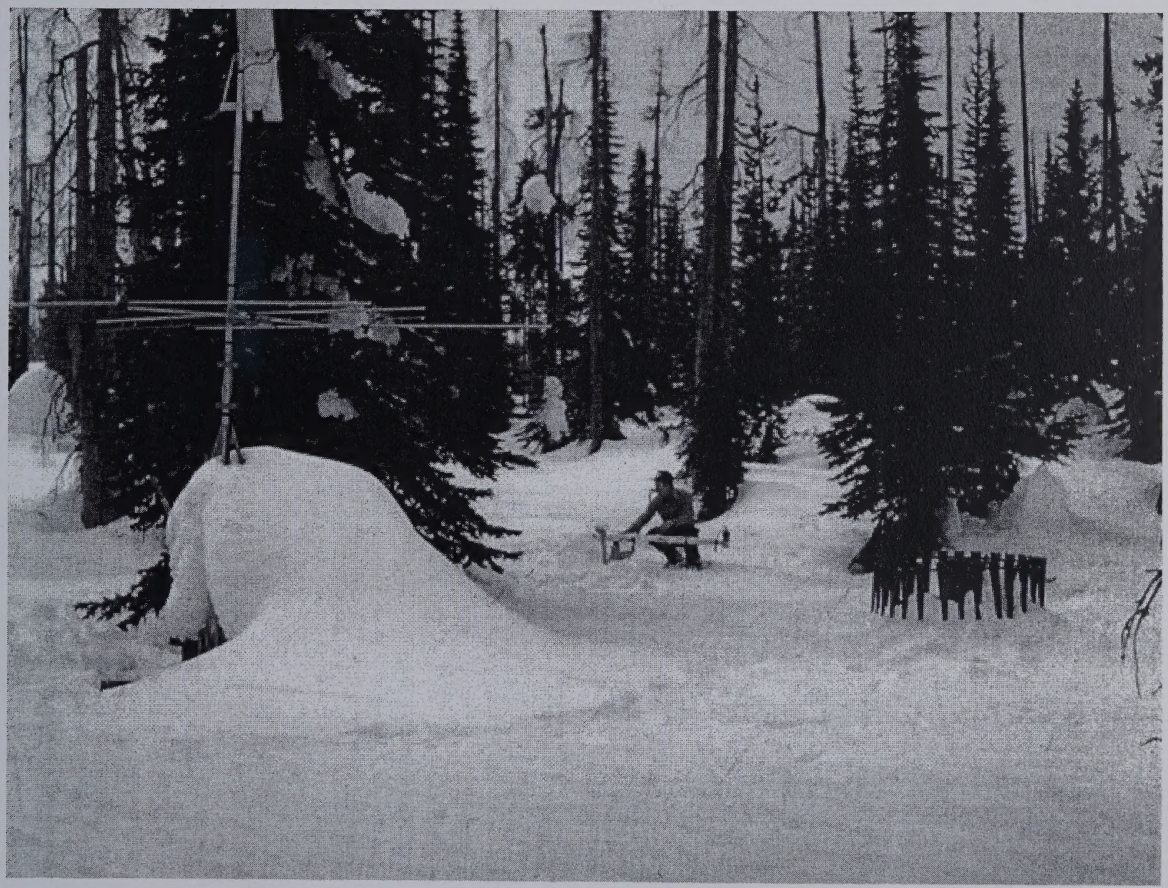
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Montana Water Supply Outlook Report March 1, 2005



Picture: Black Bear SNOTEL Site - Winter of 1997

Water Supply Outlook Report
and
Federal - State - Private
Cooperative Snow Surveys

For more water supply and resource management information, contact:
See Attached List

How forecasts are made

Most of the annual streamflow in the Western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated high in the mountains during winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Predictions are based on careful measurements of snow water equivalent at selected index points. Precipitation, temperature, soil moisture and antecedent streamflow data are combined with snowpack data to prepare runoff forecasts. Streamflow forecasts are coordinated by Natural Resources Conservation Service and National Weather Service hydrologists. This report presents a comprehensive picture of water supply conditions for areas dependent upon surface runoff. It includes selected streamflow forecasts, summarized snowpack and precipitation data, reservoir storage data, and narratives describing current conditions.

Snowpack data are obtained by using a combination of manual and automated SNOTEL measurement methods. Manual readings of snow depth and water equivalent are taken at locations called snow courses on a monthly or semi-monthly schedule during the winter. In addition, snow water equivalent, precipitation and temperature are monitored on a daily basis and transmitted via meteor burst telemetry to central data collection facilities. Both monthly and daily data are used to project snowmelt runoff.

Forecast uncertainty originates from two sources: (1) uncertainty of future hydrologic and climatic conditions, and (2) error in the forecasting procedure. To express the uncertainty in the most probable forecast, four additional forecasts are provided. The actual streamflow can be expected to exceed the most probable forecast 50% of the time. Similarly, the actual streamflow volume can be expected to exceed the 90% forecast volume 90% of the time. The same is true for the 70%, 30%, and 10% forecasts. Generally, the 90% and 70% forecasts reflect drier than normal hydrologic and climatic conditions; the 30% and 10% forecasts reflect wetter than normal conditions. As the forecast season progresses, a greater portion of the future hydrologic and climatic uncertainty will become known and the additional forecasts will move closer to the most probable forecast.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Bozeman, Montana

(406) 587-6811
10 E Babcock
Federal Bldg Room 443
Bozeman MT 59715

Where to Get More Information

This contact list provides you with the names and phone numbers of individuals who can provide more detailed snow survey information for each county.

Beaverhead County
Victor Hager
683-3800

Big Horn County
Evan Van Order
665-3442

Blaine County
Matthew Crampton
357-2320

Broadwater County
Karla Ware
266-3146

Carbon County
Gregory Evertz
962-3641

Carter County
Wayne Yost
775-6355

Cascade County
Mark Delperdang
727-7580

Chouteau County
Dan Van Voast
622-5627

Custer County
Terry Heck
232-7905

Daniels County
Stanley French
487-5366

Dawson County
Linda Peterson-Lohse
365-5566

Deer Lodge County
Glen Green
846-1703

Fallon County
Ann Fischer
778-2217

Fergus County
Patty Creamer
538-7401

Flathead County
Angel Rosario
752-4242

Gallatin County
Matt Drechsel
522-4018

Garfield County
Sue Fitzgerald
557-2232

Glacier County
Mark Johnson
873-4292

Golden Valley County
John Rouane Jr.
323-2103

Granite County
Mary McDonald Pochelon
859-3291

Hill County
Deana Grabofsky
265-6792

Jefferson County
Julie Sacks
287-3215

Judith Basin County
Rick Caquelin
566-2311

Lake County
David Wolf
676-2841

Lewis and Clark County
Mindy Gauthier
449-5000

Liberty County
Dawn Wickum
759-5778

Lincoln County
Kirk Sullivan
296-2233

Madison County
Ole Berkram
842-5741

McCone County
Regan Fanning
485-2744

Meagher County
Tammy DeCock
547-3633

(over)

Mineral County
Tony Prince
829-3395

Missoula County
Tony Prince
829-3395

Musselshell County
John Rouane Jr.
323-2103

Park County
Ron Hoagland
222-2899

Petroleum County
Nikki Lott
429-6646

Phillips County
Lorna Philp
654-1334

Pondera County
Lanny Walker
278-3922

Powder River County
Carol Hilliard
436-2417

Powell County
Glen Green
846-1703

Prairie County
Bob Prongua
635-5381

Ravalli County
Lane Johnson
363-5010

Richland County
Jamie Selting
433-2103

Roosevelt County
Robert Bray
787-5232

Rosebud County
Rocky Schwagler
346-7333

Sanders County
Don Feist
826-3701

Sheridan County
Monica Friedrich
765-1801

Silver Bow County
Julie Sacks
287-3215

Stillwater County
Philip Sandoval
322-5359

Sweet Grass County
Chuck Roloff
932-5160

Teton County
Stacy Denny-Eneboe
466-5722

Toole County
Misty Vermulm
434-5234

Treasure County
Stewart Greer
342-5510

Valley County
Denise Wiedenheft
228-4321

Wheatland County
John Oiestad
632-5534

Wibaux County
Katrina Johnson
796-2211

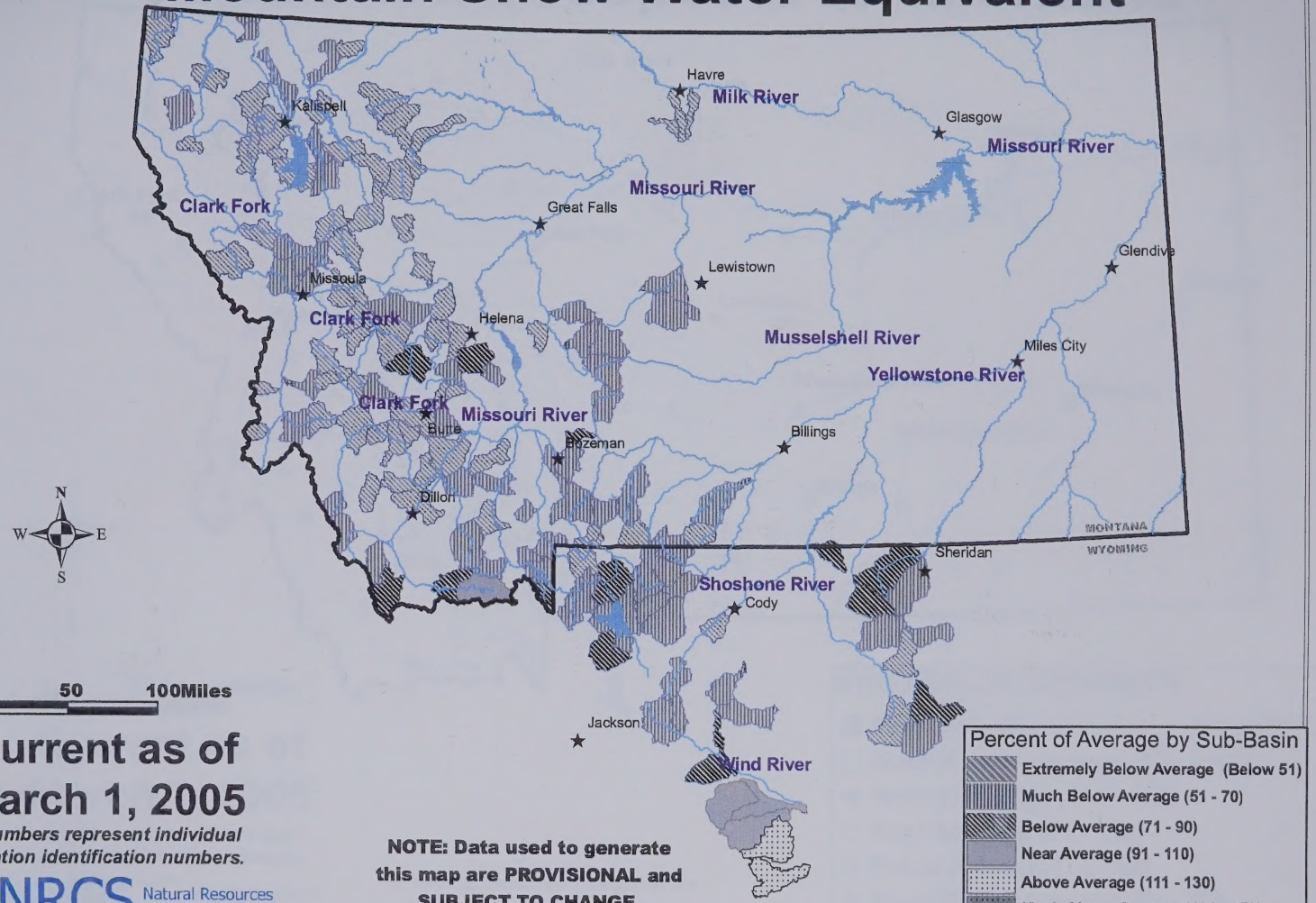
Yellowstone County
Valerie Roberson
657-6135

1/6/05

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mountain Snow Water Equivalent



Current as of March 1, 2005

Numbers represent individual station identification numbers.

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov

NOTE: Data used to generate this map are PROVISIONAL and SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

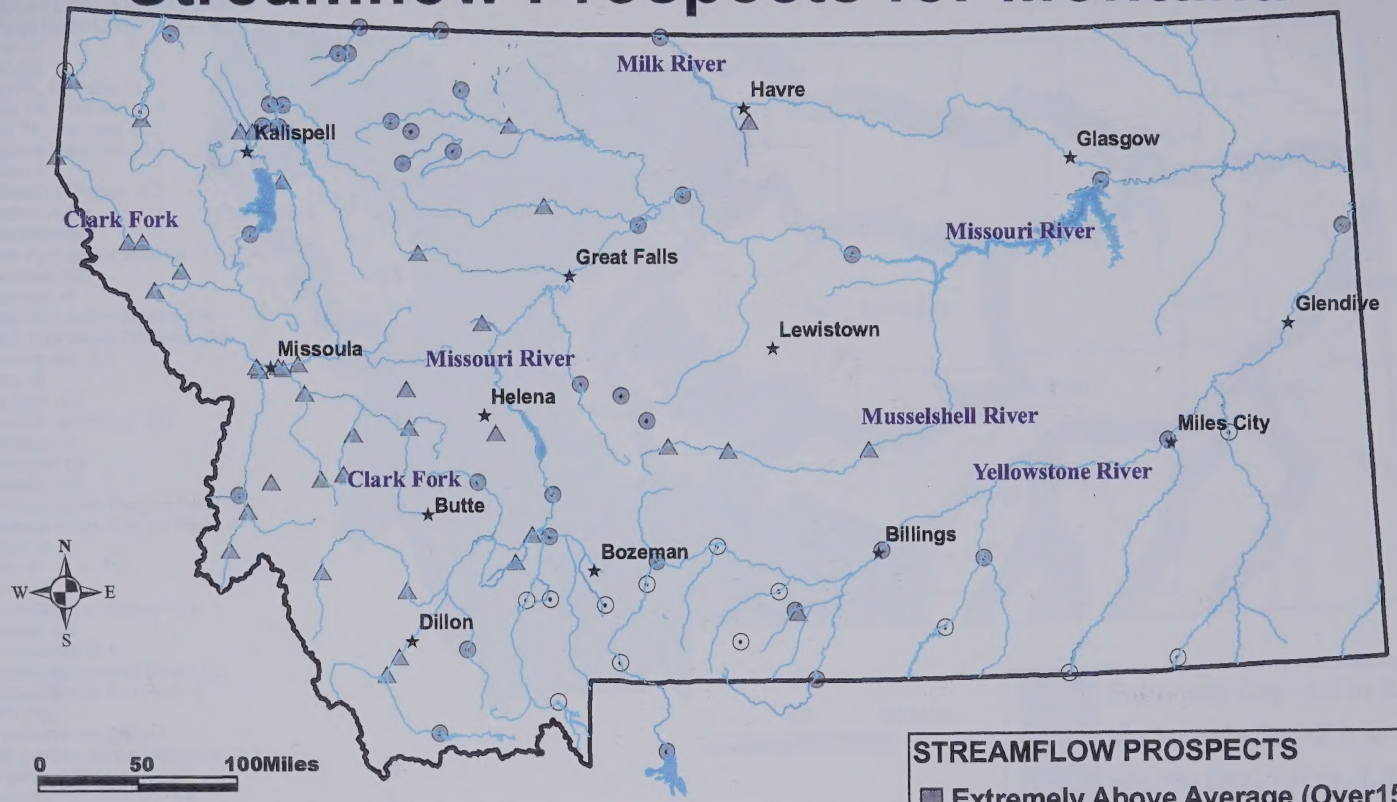
Percent of Average by Sub-Basin

- Extremely Below Average (Below 51)
- Much Below Average (51 - 70)
- Below Average (71 - 90)
- Near Average (91 - 110)
- Above Average (111 - 130)
- Much Above Average (131 - 150)
- Extremely Above Average (Over150)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Streamflow Prospects for Montana



Current as of March 1, 2005

Numbers represent individual station identification numbers.

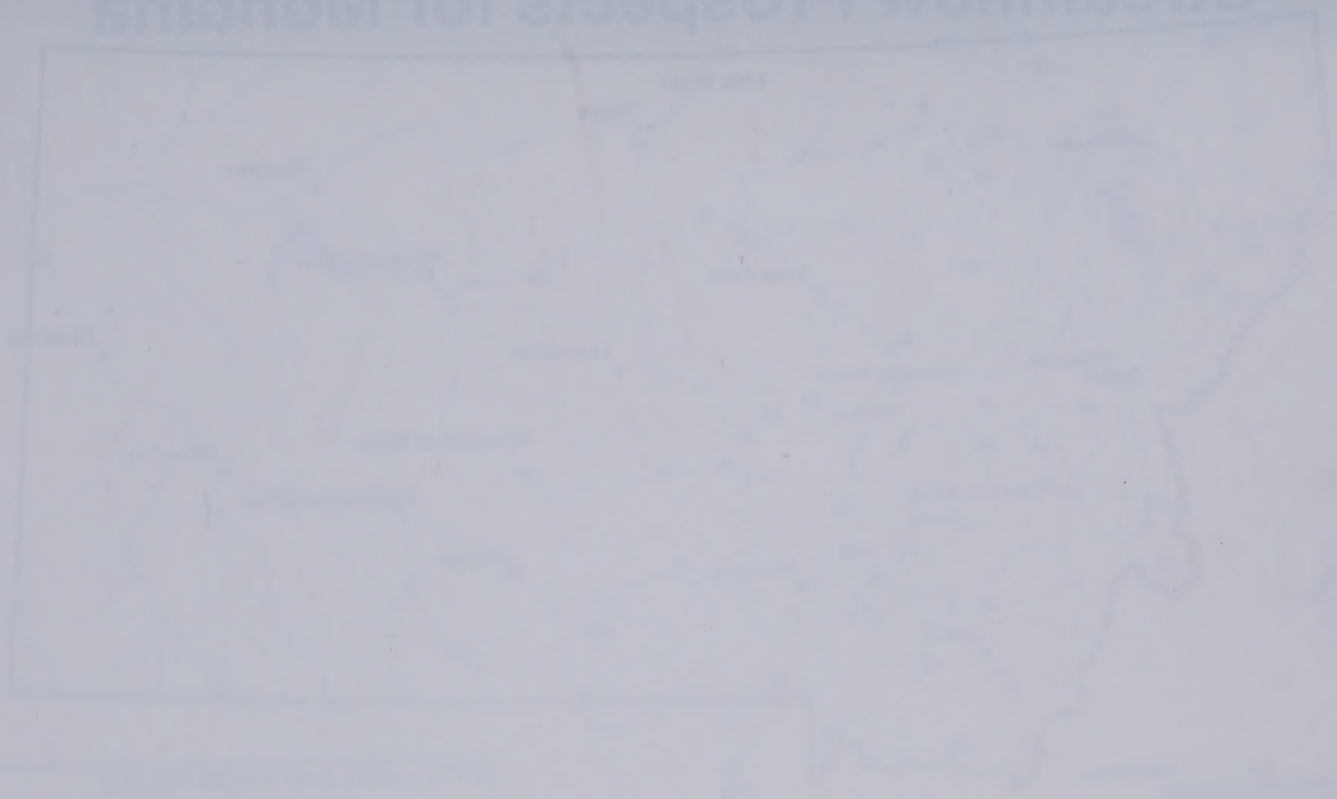
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov

NOTE: Data used to generate this map are PROVISIONAL and SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

STREAMFLOW PROSPECTS

- Extremely Above Average (Over150)
- Much Above Average (131 - 150)
- Above Average (111 - 130)
- Near Average (91 - 110)
- Below Average (71 - 90)
- Much Below Average (51 - 70)
- Extremely Below Average (Below 51)

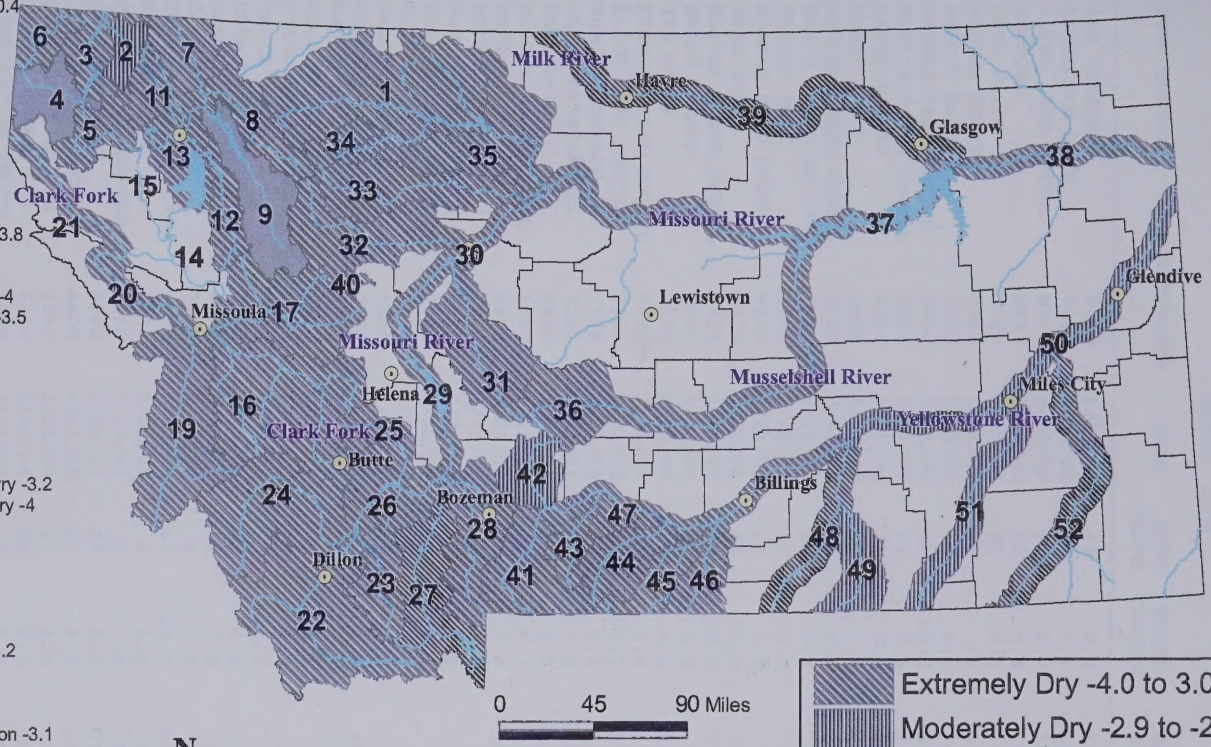


Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) Values

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

RIVER INDEX & SWSI VALUES

1 Marias above Tiber Reservoir -3.9
2 Tobacco -2.8
3 Kootenai Ft. Steele to Libby Dam -3
4 Kootenai below Libby Dam -0.4
5 Fisher -3
6 Yaak -3.4
7 North FK. Flathead -3.3
8 Middle FK. Flathead -3.9
9 South FK. Flathead -0.2
11 Stillwater/Whitefish -3.9
12 Swan -4
13 Flathead at Polson -3.3
14 Mission Valley
15 Little Bitterroot
16 Clark Fork above Milltown -3.8
17 Blackfoot -3.8
19 Bitterroot -4
20 Clark Fork below Bitterroot -4
21 Clark Fork below Flathead -3.5
22 Beaverhead -3.8
23 Ruby -3
24 Big Hole -3.3
25 Boulder (Jefferson) -3.9
26 Jefferson -4
27 Madison -1.8
28 Gallatin -3.5
29 Missouri above Canyon Ferry -3.2
30 Missouri below Canyon Ferry -4
31 Smith -4
32 Sun -4
33 Teton -4
34 Birch/Dupuyer Creeks -3.4
35 Marias -3.5
36 Musselshell -3.1
37 Missouriabove Fort Peck -3.2
38 Missouribelow Fort Peck -4
39 Milk -1.9
40 Dearbornnear Craig -4
41 Yellowstone above Livingston -3.1
42 Shields -2.9
43 Boulder(Yellowstone) -3.6
44 Stillwater -3.4
45 Rock/Red Lodge Creeks -3.6
46 Clarks Fork -3.8
47 Yellowstone above Bighorn -3.3
48 Bighorn below Bighorn Lake -1.2
49 Little Bighorn -2.9
50 Yellowstone below Bighorn -2.4
51 Tongue -2.4
52 Powder -1.7


Milk River
Havre
Glasgow
Clark Fork
Missouri River
Lewistown
Glendive
Missoula
Missouri River
Musselshell River
Miles City
Helena
Clark Fork
Yellowstone River
Butte
Billings
Bozeman
Dillon
Clark Fork
Missouri River
Missouri River
Missouri River

MONTANA SNOW COURSE AND SNOTEL DATA

MARCH 2005

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 71-00
ABE LINCOLN	4440	2/24/05	18	5.0	15.4	17.0
ABUNDANCE LAKE	8800	2/23/05	33	7.4	12.9	16.7
ALBRO LAKE SNOTEL	8300	3/01/05	32	8.2	15.5	16.5
AMBROSE	6480	2/22/05	17	4.0	9.8	10.5
ARCH FALLS	7350	2/24/05	21	4.6	6.8	9.0
ASHLEY DIVIDE	4820	3/01/05	2	.6	6.2	6.2
ASHLEY LAKE	4000	3/01/05	5	1.6	4.4	5.3
BADGER PASS SNOTEL	6900	3/01/05	42	13.2	23.2	29.7
BANFIELD MTN SNOTEL	5600	3/01/05	21	7.4	13.2	17.0
BAREE MIDWAY	4600	3/03/05	20	5.0	29.3	28.7
BAREE TRAIL	3800	3/03/05	0	.0	11.6	8.2
BARKER LAKES SNOTEL	8250	3/01/05	28	6.6	10.3	11.1
BASIN CREEK SNOTEL	7180	3/01/05	13	3.1	6.1	6.1
BASSOO PEAK	5150	2/23/05	13	2.9	7.2	9.0
BEAGLE SPGS SNOTEL	8850	3/01/05	25	5.5	7.6	7.0
BEAR BASIN	8150	2/23/05	42	11.2	16.0	16.6
BEAVER CREEK SNOTEL	7850	3/01/05	40	10.8	15.5	14.5
BERRY MEADOW	7000	2/23/05	10	2.2	5.3	5.9
BIG SNOWY	7150	2/23/05	36	9.0	17.6	15.3
BISSON CREEK SNOTEL	4920	3/01/05	11	3.6	9.0	8.7
BLACK BEAR SNOTEL	7950	3/01/05	82	27.7	37.2	32.9
BLACK MOUNTAIN	7750	2/23/05	30	9.4	11.0	11.4
BLACK PINE SNOTEL	7100	3/01/05	18	4.6	8.0	10.1
BLACKTAIL	5650	3/01/05	19	5.7	11.6	12.3
BLOODY DICK SNOTEL	7550	3/01/05	25	5.1	10.0	10.6
BLUE LAKE	5900	2/22/05	26	7.6	14.8	21.1
BOTS SOTS	7750	2/25/05	16	2.8	4.2	6.2
BOULDER MTN SNOTEL	7950	3/01/05	32	8.8	15.8	16.6
BOX CANYON SNOTEL	6700	3/01/05	22	5.5	6.9	8.5
BOXELDER CREEK	5100	2/25/05	0	.0	8.6	6.5
BRACKETT CR SNOTEL	7320	3/01/05	42	12.5	15.3	17.0
BRANHAM LAKES	8850	2/23/05	55	16.8	25.8	23.6
BRUSH CREEK TIMBER	5000	2/28/05	3	.2	6.4	7.5
BULL MOUNTAIN	6600	2/23/05	1	.1	3.0	5.1
BURNT MTN SNOTEL	5880	3/01/05	6	1.3	5.9	--
CABIN CREEK	5200	2/23/05	5	1.2	4.2	5.4
CALL ROAD	8050	2/23/05	22	4.4	6.7	9.2
CALVERT CR SNOTEL	6430	3/01/05	14	3.4	7.9	7.5
CAMP SENIA	7890	2/25/05	9	1.6	3.8	4.6
CARROT BASIN SNOTEL	9000	3/01/05	53	15.4	24.0	22.6
CARTER CREEK	7400	2/28/05	8	2.0	4.0	4.2
CHESSMAN RESERVOIR	6200	2/22/05	3	.8	2.9	3.1
CHICKEN CREEK	4060	2/24/05	28	8.3	17.1	14.4
CLOVER MDW SNOTEL	8800	3/01/05	37	9.7	12.0	14.2
COLE CREEK SNOTEL	7850	3/01/05	27	6.8	10.5	12.0
COLLEY CREEK	6300	2/24/05	20	3.4	6.4	7.0
COMBINATION SNOTEL	5600	3/01/05	7	1.5	4.8	4.5
COPPER BOTTOM SNOTEL	5200	3/01/05	0	.0	9.3	9.9
COPPER CAMP SNOTEL	6950	3/01/05	42	16.9	35.9	27.8
COPPER CREEK	5700	2/22/05	2	.2	9.5	12.5
COPPER MOUNTAIN	7700	2/26/05	25	6.0	8.0	8.9
COTTONWOOD CREEK	6400	2/24/05	14	3.0	7.4	6.0
COYOTE HILL	4200	2/28/05	17	4.6	9.2	9.1
CREVICE MOUNTAIN	8400	2/27/05	22	4.5	6.4	9.0
CRYSTAL LAKE SNOTEL	6050	3/01/05	22	6.1	14.0	9.6
DAD CREEK LAKE	8400	2/23/05	33	7.6	9.4	11.2
DAISY PEAK SNOTEL	7600	3/01/05	21	4.7	9.0	8.7
DALY CREEK SNOTEL	5780	3/01/05	21	6.2	9.3	9.4
DARKHORSE LK. SNOTEL	8700	3/01/05	58	16.5	22.3	26.6
DAVIS CREEK	5400	2/26/05	35	10.0	18.6	20.7

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 71-00
DEADMAN CR SNOTEL	6450	3/01/05	21	5.5	9.7	8.5
DESERT MOUNTAIN	5600	2/22/05	28	7.1	12.7	12.6
DISCOVERY BASIN	7050	2/25/05	16	3.5	8.8	8.4
DIVIDE SNOTEL	7800	3/01/05	27	6.3	8.4	8.7
DIX HILL	6400	2/27/05	15	4.1	8.0	10.0
DUPUYER CREEK SNOTEL	5750	3/01/05	4	.9	5.7	9.2
EAST FORK R.S.	5400	2/23/05	13	2.6	5.8	5.6
EL DORADO MINE	7800	2/23/05	33	7.8	15.6	15.8
ELK HORN SPRINGS	7800	2/23/05	16	2.3	5.3	7.6
ELK PEAK	8000	2/24/05	27	7.7	10.0	12.6
EMERY CREEK SNOTEL	4350	3/01/05	22	5.8	15.1	13.3
FATTY CREEK	5500	2/23/05	32	9.2	19.0	20.4
FISH CREEK	8000	2/28/05	15	3.1	6.4	7.8
FISHER CREEK SNOTEL	9100	3/01/05	64	19.8	25.7	29.6
FIVE-BULL	5700	2/21/05	3	.6	4.4	5.3
FLATTOP MTN SNOTEL	6300	3/01/05	66	24.4	32.8	39.2
FLEECER RIDGE	7500	3/01/05	15	3.4	8.0	9.2
FOOLHEN	8280	2/23/05	29	6.4	10.5	13.2
FOUR MILE	6900	2/22/05	14	3.2	7.4	6.8
FOURTH OF JULY	3450	2/24/05	6	2.0	9.0	8.4
FREIGHT CREEK	6000	2/22/05	11	3.0	10.4	12.6
FROHNER MDWS SNOTEL	6480	3/01/05	16	4.7	6.2	6.3
GARVER CREEK SNOTEL	4250	3/01/05	20	5.6	8.1	9.1
GOAT MOUNTAIN	7000	2/25/05	7	1.6	8.0	8.7
GRASSHOPPER	7000	2/23/05	7	1.9	4.5	4.7
GRAVE CRK SNOTEL	4300	3/01/05	24	7.9	16.1	14.5
GRIFFIN CR DIVIDE	5150	2/23/05	6	1.7	7.1	9.5
HAND CREEK SNOTEL	5030	3/01/05	7	4.0	9.6	9.9
HAWKINS LAKE SNOTEL	6450	3/01/05	39	12.0	18.4	23.1
HEBGEN DAM	6550	2/28/05	28	7.0	12.7	10.8
HELL ROARING DIVIDE	5770	2/27/05	43	15.1	23.9	25.8
HERRIG JUNCTION	4850	2/24/05	44	15.6	21.1	22.2
HOLBROOK	4530	3/01/05	---	2.4E	7.5	8.3
HOODOO BASIN SNOTEL	6050	3/01/05	52	18.7	30.5	38.6
ICEBERG LAKE NO 3	5600	3/01/05	31	11.5	24.6	--
INDEPENDENCE	7850	2/25/05	34	9.9	11.6	15.0
INTERGAARD	6450	2/24/05	6	1.6	5.5	6.2
JOHNSON PARK	6450	2/25/05	12	2.6	6.2	5.4
JOSEPHINE LOWER NO 9	4900	2/28/05	9	2.4	11.0	--
KISHENEHN	3890	2/28/05	12	2.9	8.7	7.3
KRAFT CREEK SNOTEL	4750	3/01/05	12	4.4	11.6	13.6
LAKE CREEK	6100	2/23/05	16	2.6	6.0	7.4
LAKEVIEW CANYON	6930	3/02/05	31	8.8	9.7	8.5
LAKEVIEW RDG. SNOTEL	7400	3/01/05	35	9.6	11.0	9.2
LEMHI RIDGE SNOTEL	8100	3/01/05	26	6.2	7.8	8.7
LICK CREEK SNOTEL	6860	3/01/05	24	5.1	8.7	9.5
LITTLE PARK	7400	2/22/05	34	8.2	12.3	13.0
LOGAN CREEK	4300	2/28/05	12	3.4	6.7	6.2
LONE MOUNTAIN SNOTEL	8880	3/01/05	37	10.1	14.4	15.0
LOWER TWIN SNOTEL	7900	3/01/05	36	9.6	14.2	15.1
LUBRECHT SNOTEL	4680	3/01/05	3	1.7	5.4	5.3
LUBRECHT FOREST NO 3	5450	2/28/05	4	.9	4.6	5.6
LUBRECHT FOREST NO 4	4650	2/28/05	1	.1	2.5	2.7
LUBRECHT FOREST NO 6	4040	2/25/05	2	.4	3.1	3.2
LUBRECHT HYDROPLOT	4200	2/25/05	10	2.5	4.5	5.1
MADISON PLT SNOTEL	7750	3/01/05	52	15.7	22.8	20.9
MANY GLACIER SNOTEL	4900	3/01/05	12	3.0	10.8	14.4
MARIAS PASS	5250	2/24/05	12	3.6	12.5	14.9
MIDDLE MILL CREEK	7850	2/23/05	30	7.4	14.2	13.3
MILL CREEK	7500	3/01/05	---	6.2E	9.2	10.2
MINERAL CREEK	4000	2/28/05	14	2.5	17.8	15.8
MONUMENT PK SNOTEL	8850	3/01/05	44	11.7	15.3	17.2
MOSS PEAK SNOTEL	6780	3/01/05	51	17.8	26.3	31.3
MOULTON RESERVOIR	6850	2/28/05	12	2.3	7.1	6.2

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 71-00
MOUNT ALLEN NO 7	5700	2/28/05	45	15.3	31.6	--
MT LOCKHART SNOTEL	6400	3/01/05	29	8.8	15.3	17.6
MULE CREEK SNOTEL	8300	3/01/05	27	6.6	9.9	13.1
N.E. ENTRANCE SNOTEL	7350	3/01/05	19	4.4	6.4	9.7
NEVADA RIDGE SNOTEL	7020	3/01/05	25	6.8	11.5	13.2
NEW WORLD	6900	2/23/05	30	6.7	11.3	11.1
NEWTON MOUNTAIN	5600	2/24/05	43	12.0	25.1	28.8
NEZ PERCE CMP SNOTEL	5650	3/01/05	25	6.2	12.4	12.7
NEZ PERCE CREEK	6600	2/26/05	8	1.1	6.0	5.6
NEZ PERCE PASS	6570	2/24/05	21	5.3	13.5	15.7
N.F. ELK CR SNOTEL	6250	3/01/05	23	5.8	9.8	10.2
NF JOCKO SNOTEL	6330	3/01/05	63	23.6	34.7	38.5
NOISY BASIN SNOTEL	6040	3/01/05	55	20.4	29.9	33.8
NOTCH	8500	2/23/05	37	9.0	12.2	12.4
OPHIR PARK	7150	2/27/05	21	5.7	10.7	14.1
PETERSON MDW SNOTEL	7200	3/01/05	17	4.0	7.8	7.8
PICKET PIN LOWER	6200	2/24/05	0	.0	3.7	--
PICKET PIN MIDDLE	7250	2/24/05	17	4.0	9.1	--
PICKET PIN UPPER	8100	2/24/05	33	7.0	13.7	--
PICKFOOT CRK SNOTEL	6650	3/01/05	15	4.1	9.3	9.9
PIEGAN PASS NO 6	5500	2/28/05	39	13.6	25.2	--
PIKE CREEK SNOTEL	5930	3/01/05	30	9.8	18.7	22.8
PIPESTONE PASS	7200	2/27/05	4	.8	3.0	4.1
PLACER BASIN SNOTEL	8830	3/01/05	41	10.1	13.5	14.2
POORMAN CR SNOTEL	5100	3/01/05	41	14.7	34.1	28.2
PORCUPINE SNOTEL	6500	3/01/05	10	2.9	7.0	5.8
POTOMAGETON PARK	7150	2/27/05	30	7.9	14.8	12.1
PTARMIGAN	5800	3/01/05	37	12.6	25.1	--
RED TOP	5260	3/01/05	---	11.6E	21.4	23.8
REVAIS CREEK	4800	3/02/05	0	.0	2.6	3.1
ROCK CREEK	5600	2/23/05	18	4.6	11.5	8.4
ROCK CREEK MEADOW	8160	2/28/05	39	10.0	12.8	16.6
ROCKER PEAK SNOTEL	8000	3/01/05	25	5.9	9.4	11.2
ROCKY BOY SNOTEL	4700	3/01/05	0	.0	5.7	4.3
SACAJAWEA	6550	2/23/05	27	7.9	11.0	11.2
SACAJAWEA SNOTEL	6550	3/01/05	29	8.7	12.1	12.0
SADDLE MTN SNOTEL	7900	3/01/05	42	11.6	19.1	21.8
S.F. SHIELDS SNOTEL	8100	3/01/05	37	9.7	13.0	13.6
SHORT CREEK SNOTEL	7000	3/01/05	15	3.4	4.9	4.9
SHOWER FALLS SNOTEL	8100	3/01/05	46	12.7	13.4	17.4
SKALKAHO SNOTEL	7260	3/01/05	36	9.5	16.3	20.2
SLEEPING WOMAN SNTL	6150	3/01/05	26	6.5	11.3	14.0
SLIDE ROCK MOUNTAIN	7100	2/25/05	23	5.4	9.6	12.6
SMUGGLER MINE	6960	2/23/05	19	3.9	9.4	8.1
SPOTTED BEAR MTN.	7000	2/22/05	17	4.6	11.6	12.7
SPUR PARK SNOTEL	8100	3/01/05	44	12.1	15.4	17.7
STAHL PEAK SNOTEL	6030	3/01/05	68	22.0	26.6	29.9
STEMPLE PASS	6600	2/22/05	13	3.2	6.6	8.3
STORM LAKE	7780	2/25/05	26	6.2	9.0	10.2
STRYKER BASIN	6180	2/24/05	52	17.1	23.4	26.9
STUART MOUNTAIN SNTL	7400	3/01/05	49	15.6	24.3	28.9
SUCKER CREEK	3960	2/25/05	0	.0	2.8	.3
TAYLOR ROAD	4080	2/25/05	0	.0	5.6	2.7
TEN MILE LOWER	6600	2/22/05	11	2.4	5.9	5.9
TEN MILE MIDDLE	6800	2/22/05	17	4.0	7.4	8.9
TEPEE CREEK SNOTEL	8000	3/01/05	33	8.7	12.2	10.7
TIMBERLINE CREEK	8850	2/25/05	27	6.7	9.7	11.0
TIZER BASIN SNOTEL	6840	3/01/05	16	4.7	7.5	7.9
TRAIL CREEK	7090	2/23/05	19	3.6	5.2	7.0
TRINKUS LAKE	6100	2/22/05	54	20.0	32.6	36.4
TRUMAN CREEK	4060	3/01/05	4	1.4	4.8	4.4
TV MOUNTAIN	6800	2/23/05	30	7.9	12.7	15.2
TWELVEMILE SNOTEL	5600	3/01/05	23	7.3	15.9	16.0
TWENTY-ONE MILE	7150	2/26/05	33	8.8	15.0	14.3

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 71-00
TWIN CREEKS	3580	2/22/05	8	2.2	10.8	10.2
TWIN LAKES SNOTEL	6400	3/01/05	54	18.5	35.0	34.7
UPPER HOLLAND LAKE	6200	2/22/05	47	15.5	27.4	30.0
WALDRON SNOTEL	5600	3/01/05	16	3.9	8.9	9.7
WARM SPRINGS SNOTEL	7800	3/01/05	35	9.1	16.4	17.0
WEASEL DIVIDE	5450	2/25/05	56	19.9	26.2	28.7
WEST YELL'ST SNOTEL	6700	3/01/05	30	7.8	11.5	11.2
WHISKEY CREEK SNOTEL	6800	3/01/05	44	10.8	16.4	14.4
WHITE MILL SNOTEL	8700	3/01/05	48	13.0	15.5	20.3
WHITE PINE RIDGE	8850	2/23/05	17	2.8	3.4	4.7
WILLOW CREEK	6500	2/23/05	7	1.4	6.4	6.3
WOOD CREEK SNOTEL	5960	3/01/05	16	4.4	7.4	8.2
WRONG CREEK	5700	2/23/05	16	4.7	10.6	11.0
WRONG RIDGE	6800	3/01/05	---	7.5E	--	15.4

Montana Water Supply Outlook Report as of March 1, 2005

February has been the fifth month in a row with below to well below average precipitation. Mountain precipitation during February statewide was 37 percent of average. Mountain precipitation in the Columbia was 29 percent of average; Missouri was 33 percent; St. Mary/Milk was 36 percent; and Yellowstone was 56 percent. As a result, March 1 snow water content, in several major river basins in Montana, have set new record lows. Unlike the temperatures we had later part of January, February did not have the very warm temperatures to melt mountain snowpack.

Snowpack

By March 1 there are normally about four to six weeks remaining in the annual snowfall season. Snowpack on the ground the first of March is what we normally would expect the first of January. State-wide, mountain snow water content was 53 percent of average and 57 percent of last year. West of the Continental Divide, snowpack was 47 percent of average and 51 percent of last year and east of the Continental Divide, snowpack was 61 percent of average and 65 percent of last year. Several major river basins have set new record low snow water contents for March 1. Setting new record low snowpack numbers currently, when we face the cumulative effects of drought for the past six plus years, could have much greater impacts than years where a record low snowpack occurred between years with much better conditions. To reach the normal snow water content maximum, mountain snowfall would need to be about 200 to more than 350 percent of average. Montana snowpack maximum usually occurs during April.

RIVER BASIN	% OF AVERAGE	% OF LAST YEAR	FEBRUARY % CHANGE
COLUMBIA	47	51	-9
KOOTENAI, MONTANA	47	49	-13
KOOTENAI, CANADA	72	76	-11
FLATHEAD, MONTANA	51	57	-9
FLATHEAD, CANADA	45	39	-2
UPPER CLARK FORK	47	50	-8
BITTERROOT	48	51	-6
LOWER CLARK FORK	40	41	-11
MISSOURI	56	59	-11
MISSOURI HEADWATERS	63	65	-11
JEFFERSON	59	63	-9
MADISON	67	65	-11
GALLATIN	66	70	-11
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	44	48	-11
HEADWATERS MAINSTEM	51	56	-8
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	59	55	-8
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	37	44	-7
MILK	10	4	-28
BEARPAW MOUNTAINS	0	--	-3
CYPRESS HILLS, CANADA	14	--	-52
ST. MARY	51	51	-2
ST. MARY & MILK	35	45	-12
YELLOWSTONE	68	76	-5
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	63	72	-6
LOWER YELLOWSTONE	73	83	-1

Note: The following basins have set new record low snow water contents - Flathead, Upper Clark Fork, Lower Clark Fork, Sun-Teton-Marias, St. Mary, and Bear Paw Mountains.

The following basins have tied the previous record low snow water content - Bitterroot, Gallatin, and Smith-Judith-Musselshell.

The following basins had the second lowest snow water content of record - Kootenai, Jefferson, Headwaters Mainstem, and Upper Yellowstone.

The following basins had the fourth lowest snow water content of record - Madison and Lower Yellowstone.

Precipitation

February mountain and valley precipitation across the state was 32 percent of average and 46 percent of last year, while the water year precipitation was 67 percent of average and 71 percent of last year. West of the Continental Divide, February mountain and valley precipitation was 28 percent of average and 51 percent of last year and the water year precipitation was 65 percent of average and 72 percent of last year. East of the Divide, February mountain and valley precipitation was 36 percent of average and 42 percent of last year and the water year precipitation was 69 percent of average and 70 percent of last year.

RIVER BASIN	FEBRUARY % OF AVERAGE	WATER YEAR % OF AVERAGE
COLUMBIA	28	65
KOOTENAI	34	76
FLATHEAD	31	74
UPPER CLARK FORK	28	57
BITTERROOT	29	54
LOWER CLARK FORK	24	61
MISSOURI	33	67
JEFFERSON	34	65
MADISON	42	73
GALLATIN	49	71
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	22	62
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	27	65
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	31	64
MILK	5	55
ST. MARY	44	72
YELLOWSTONE	53	74
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	52	70
LOWER YELLOWSTONE	57	78

Reservoirs

Major reservoir storages state-wide were 87 percent of average and 103 percent of last year. Reservoir storage west of the Continental Divide was 162 percent of average and 120 percent of last year. East of the Continental Divide, reservoir storages were 67 percent of average and 95 percent of last year.

RIVER BASIN	% OF AVERAGE	% OF LAST YEAR
COLUMBIA	162	120
KOOTENAI	195	113
FLATHEAD	147	130
UPPER CLARK FORK	95	100
BITTERROOT	127	184
LOWER CLARK FORK	101	92
MISSOURI	66	94
JEFFERSON	57	148
MADISON	111	105
GALLATIN	151	113
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	63	92
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	44	113
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	106	105
MILK	99	211
ST. MARY	159	301
YELLOWSTONE	83	96
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	116	109
LOWER YELLOWSTONE	82	96

Streamflow

Streamflows across Montana are forecast to average 43 to 53 percent of normal. West of the Continental Divide, streamflows are forecast to average 40 to 45 percent of normal and east of the Continental Divide, streamflows are forecast to average 44 to 58 percent of normal.

Streams are expected to be much lower than those of last year and in many areas could be at new record lows. Water users and water managers need to anticipate very low streamflows this spring and summer. Unless there are major increases in the spring and summer precipitation, there could be significant surface water shortages in all areas of Montana.

Below are averaged streamflow forecasts, by river basin, for the period April 1 through July 31. THESE FORECASTS ASSUME NEAR NORMAL SPRING CONDITIONS AND DO NOT ACCOUNT FOR WELL BELOW AVERAGE (70% or less) OR ABOVE AVERAGE (110% or more) SNOWMELT OR SPRING RAIN. Specific forecast probabilities are available in each individual River Basin Report on the Montana NRCS web page.

RIVER BASIN	April-July THIS YEAR % OF AVERAGE	April-July LAST YEAR % OF AVERAGE
COLUMBIA	40 to 45	89 to 100
KOOTENAI	54 to 60	93 to 102
FLATHEAD	46 to 50	86 to 95
UPPER CLARK FORK	31 to 36	89 to 105
BITTERROOT	42 to 47	92 to 102
LOWER CLARK FORK	35 to 39	87 to 97
MISSOURI	38 to 53	75 to 92
JEFFERSON	28 to 44	75 to 95
MADISON	72 to 80	96 to 104
GALLATIN	59 to 70	84 to 94
MISSOURI MAINSTEM	44 to 58	83 to 98
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	27 to 42	86 to 103
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	36 to 50	66 to 85
MILK	37 to 56	42 to 58
ST. MARY	60 to 67	82 to 89
YELLOWSTONE	58 to 70	81 to 93
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	59 to 69	85 to 96
LOWER YELLOWSTONE	57 to 71	76 to 90

NOTE: The *APRIL-JULY LAST YEAR % OF AVERAGE* column above is what was forecast last year, not what actually occurred.

Surface Water Supply Index

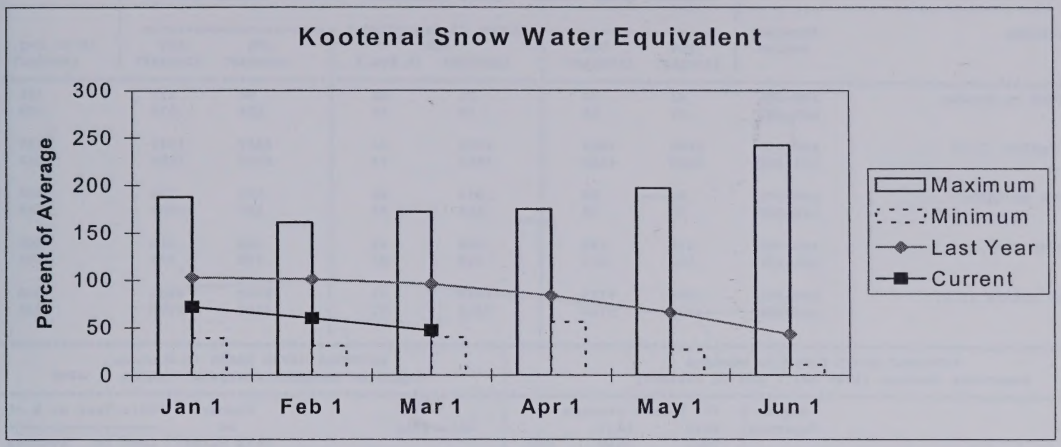
The Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) is a measure of available surface water availability for the spring and summer months. Water users that rely on mountain precipitation can use the index to evaluate seasonal surface water supplies. The SWSI accounts for mountain snowpack, mountain precipitation, streamflow, reservoir storage, and soil moisture.

SWSI RATING	SURFACE WATER CONDITION
+3.0 to +4.0	Extremely Wet
+2.0 to +2.9	Moderately Wet
+1.0 to +1.9	Slightly Wet
-0.9 to +0.9	Near Average
-1.0 to -1.9	Slightly Dry
-2.0 to -2.9	Moderately Dry
-3.0 to -4.0	Extremely Dry

This Year SWSI	Last Year SWSI	Basin
-2.8	+0.5	Tobacco River
-3.0	-0.4	Kootenai Ft. Steele to Libby Dam
-0.4	+1.9	Kootenai River below Libby Dam
-3.0	-0.7	Fisher River
-3.4	+0.2	Yaak River
-3.3	-1.1	North Fork Flathead River
-3.9	-1.2	Middle FORK Flathead River
-3.3	+0.1	South Fork Flathead River
-3.0	-0.2	Flathead River at Columbia Falls
-3.9	0.0	Stillwater/Whitefish Rivers
-4.0	-1.9	Swan River
-3.3	-1.3	Flathead River at Polson
missing	+0.2	Mission Valley
missing	-2.9	Little Bitterroot River
-3.8	-0.5	Clark Fork River above Milltown
-3.8	-0.3	Blackfoot River
-4.0	-0.1	Bitterroot River
-4.0	-0.7	Clark Fork River below Bitterroot River
-3.5	-1.1	Clark Fork River below Flathead River
-3.8	-2.9	Beaverhead River
-3.0	-1.9	Ruby River
-3.3	-0.8	Big Hole River
-3.9	-1.0	Boulder River (Jefferson)
-4.0	-1.5	Jefferson River
-1.8	+0.2	Madison River
-3.5	-1.2	Gallatin River
-3.2	-0.6	Missouri River above Canyon Ferry
-4.0	-0.6	Missouri River below Canyon Ferry
-4.0	-0.2	Smith River
-4.0	-1.3	Sun River
-4.0	-1.7	Teton River
-3.4	-2.4	Birch/Dupuyer Creeks
-3.9	-2.1	Marias River above Tiber
-3.5	-1.7	Marias River below Tiber
-3.1	+0.1	Musselshell River
-3.2	-0.7	Missouri River above Ft. Peck
-4.0	-3.9	Missouri River below Ft. Peck
-1.9	-3.3	Milk River
-4.0	-1.4	Dearborn River near Craig
-3.1	-0.5	Yellowstone River above Livingston
-2.9	-0.2	Shields River
-3.6	-2.1	Boulder River (Yellowstone)
-3.4	-2.2	Stillwater River
-3.6	-1.4	Rock/Red Lodge Creeks
-3.8	-1.9	Clarks Fork River
-3.3	-1.2	Yellowstone River above Bighorn River
-1.2	-1.5	Bighorn River below Bighorn Lake
-2.9	-2.3	Little Bighorn River
-2.4	-1.3	Yellowstone River below Bighorn River
-2.4	-2.2	Tongue River
-1.7	+0.4	Powder River

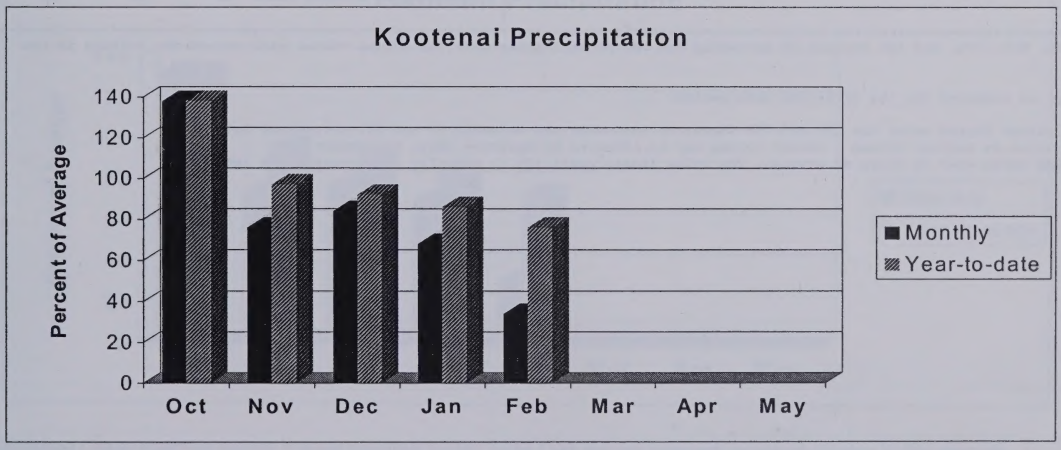
Kootenai River Basin in Montana

Snowpack conditions in the Kootenai River Basin were well below average and decreased 13 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 47 percent of average and 49 percent of last year and second lowest of record. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum in April is about 350 percent. Snow water content in the Kootenay in Canada was 73 percent of average and 76 percent of last year and decreased 11 percent from February 1.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum swe was in 2001; May maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum swe was in 1992. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain precipitation during February was 36 percent of average and 88 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 9 percent of average and 27 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 76 percent of average and 82 percent of last year.



Lake Koocanusa storage was 195 percent of average and 113 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 54 percent to 60 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -2.8 in the Tobacco River; -3.0 in the Kootenai Ft. Steele to Libby Dam; -0.4 in the Kootenai River below Libby Dam; -3.0 in the Fisher River; and -3.4 in the Yaak River.

KOOTENAI RIVER BASIN in Montana
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
TOBACCO RIVER nr Eureka	APR-JUL	61	73	82	60	96	117	136
	APR-SEP	66	80	90	60	106	130	150
LIBBY RES Inflow (1,2)	APR-JUL	3350	3809	4120	73	4560	5520	5640
	APR-SEP	4059	4530	4850	73	5290	6250	6640
FISHER RIVER nr Libby	APR-JUL	68	89	104	45	135	181	230
	APR-SEP	75	98	114	47	147	193	245
YAAK RIVER nr Troy	APR-JUL	130	185	225	48	265	320	465
	APR-SEP	145	200	240	49	280	335	490
KOOTENAI at Leonia (1,2)	APR-JUL	3990	4720	5050	72	5380	6110	7040
	APR-SEP	4590	5400	5830	72	6210	7020	8120

KOOTENAI RIVER BASIN in Montana
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
LAKE KOOCANUSA	5748.0	3806.0	3364.0	1950.0

KOOTENAI RIVER BASIN in Montana
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
KOOTENAY in CANADA	15	81	68
KOOTENAI MAINTSTEM	3	51	52
TOBACCO	3	72	68
FISHER	4	16	17
YAAK	7	50	44
KOOTENAI in MONTANA	17	49	47
KOOTENAI ab BONNERS FERRY	32	60	55

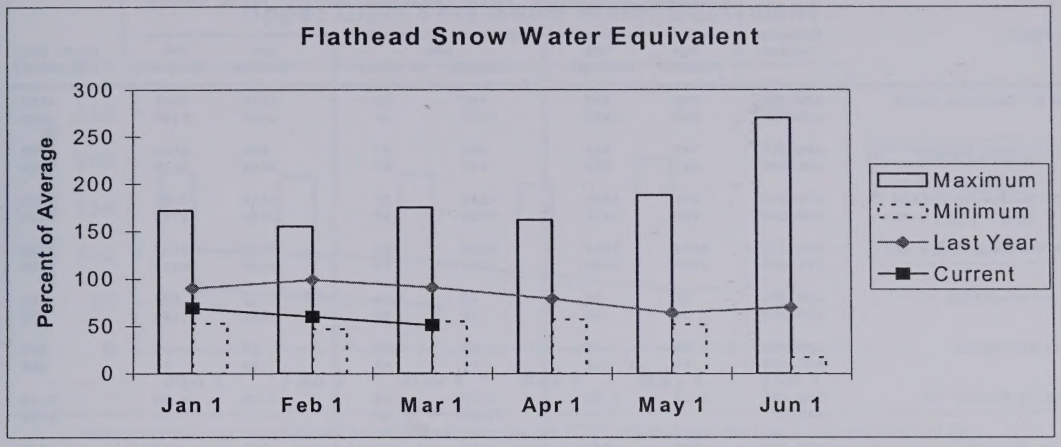
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

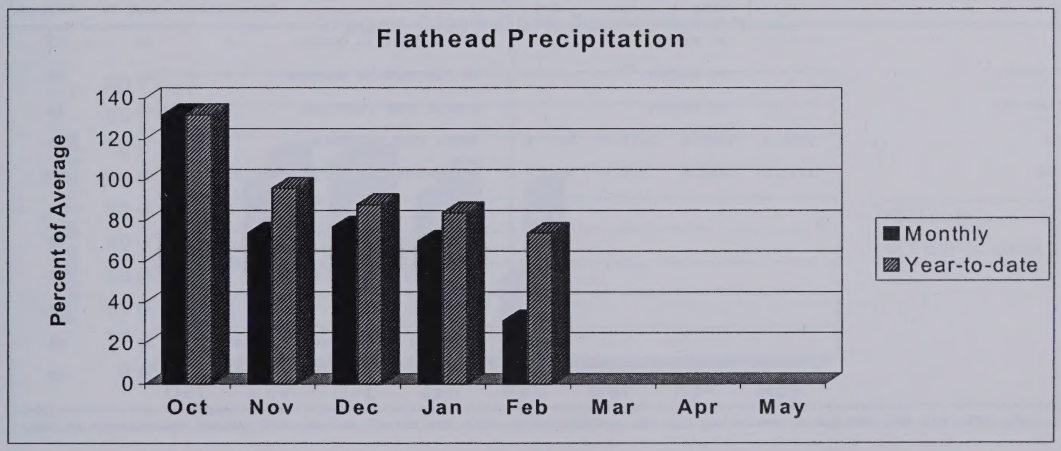
Flathead River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Flathead River Basin were well below average and decreased 9 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 51 percent of average and 57 percent of last year and has set a new record low, which previously occurred in 2001. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 350 percent. Snow water content in the North Fork Flathead River in Canada was 45 percent of average and 39 percent of last year.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum was in 2001; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 2001; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 2001; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 2001; May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1992; and June maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum was in 1992. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain precipitation during February was 32 percent of average and 56 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 3 percent of average and 7 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 74 percent of average and 81 percent of last year.



Combined Camas reservoir storage was not reported; Lower Jocko Lake was not reported; combined Mission Valley reservoir storage was not reported; Hungry Horse storage was 151 percent of average and 127 percent of last year; and Flathead Lake storage was 136 percent of average and 141 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 44 percent to 50 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -3.3 in the North Fork Flathead River; -3.9 in the Middle Fork Flathead River; -3.3 in the South Fork Flathead River; -3.0 in the Flathead River at Columbia Falls; -3.9 in the Stillwater/Whitefish Rivers; -4.0 in the Swan River; -3.3 in the Flathead River at Polson; missing data in the Mission Valley; and missing data in the Little Bitterroot River.

FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
NF FLATHEAD nr Columbia Falls	APR-JUL	755	895	995	61	1095	1235	1620
	APR-SEP	860	1010	1120	62	1230	1380	1800
MF FLATHEAD nr West Glacier	APR-JUL	771	848	900	57	990	1130	1590
	APR-SEP	843	928	985	57	1085	1235	1740
HUNGRY HORSE Reservoir Inflow (1,2)	APR-JUL	941	1060	1140	57	1280	1580	2000
	APR-SEP	999	1137	1230	58	1390	1750	2120
FLATHEAD at Columbia Falls (2)	APR-JUL	2596	2944	3180	59	3550	4090	5350
	APR-SEP	2857	3240	3500	60	3900	4490	5820
STILLWATER nr Whitefish	APR-JUL	45	58	67	35	92	129	192
	APR-SEP	52	66	76	36	103	145	210
WHITEFISH nr Kalispell	APR-JUL	36	42	47	47	57	71	101
	APR-SEP	40	48	53	47	64	81	114
ASHLEY CREEK nr Marion (2)	APR-JUL	1.12	1.59	1.90	26	3.10	4.90	7.20
	MARCH			0.80	76			1.06
SWAN RIVER nr Bigfork	APR-JUL	238	269	290	51	330	395	565
	APR-SEP	264	300	325	50	375	445	645
Flathead Lake inflow (1,2)	APR-JUL	3105	3430	3650	59	4000	4770	6180
	APR-SEP	3233	3666	3960	59	4460	5550	6700

FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
CAMAS (4)		NO REPORT		
LOWER JOCKO LAKE		NO REPORT		
MISSION VALLEY (8)		NO REPORT		
HUNGRY HORSE	3451.0	3102.0	2441.0	2047.6
FLATHEAD LAKE	1791.0	1095.0	776.7	802.7

FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
NF FLATHEAD in CANADA	1	39	33
NF FLATHEAD in MONTANA	9	62	57
MIDDLE FORK FLATHEAD	6	56	48
SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD	7	53	49
STILLWATER-WHITEFISH	10	54	50
SWAN	7	61	54
MISSION VALLEY	4	55	50
LITTLE BITTERROOT-ASHLEY	6	34	30
JOCKO	5	63	54
FLATHEAD in MONTANA	40	55	50
FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN	41	55	50

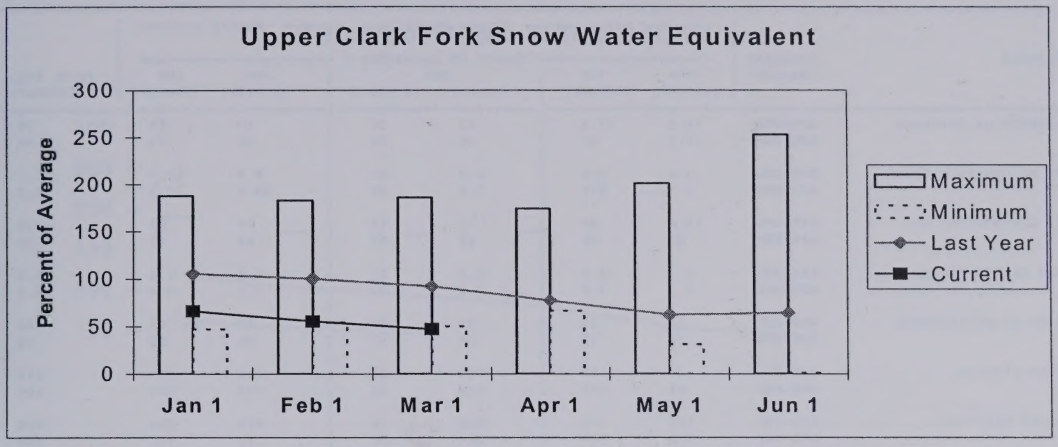
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

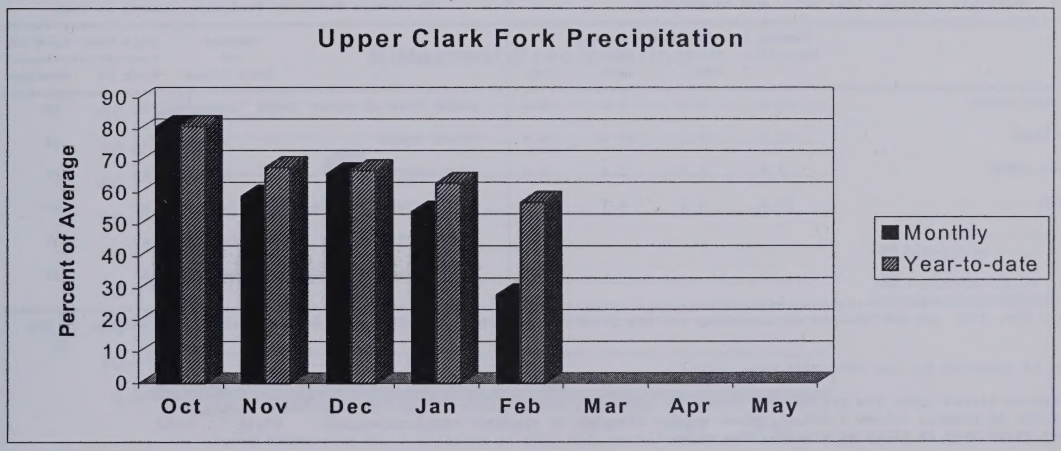
Upper Clark Fork River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin were severely below average and decreased 8 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 47 percent of average and 50 percent of last year and has set a new record low, which previously occurred in 1997. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 320 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; February maximum was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1994; May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum swe was in 1987. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain precipitation during February was 28 percent of average and 41 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 25 percent of average and 32 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 57 percent of average and 63 percent of last year.



East Fork Rock Creek was 70 percent of average and 110 percent of last year; Georgetown Lake was 106 percent of average and 98 percent of last year; Lower Willow Creek storage was 90 percent of average and 129 percent of last year; and Nevada Creek storage was 88 percent of average and 98 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 31 percent to 36 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -3.8 in the Clark Fork River above Milltown; -3.8 in the Blackfoot River; and -4.0 in the Clark Fork River above Missoula.

UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
LITTLE BLACKFOOT nr Garrison	APR-JUL	10.4	17.9	23	30	40	65	76
	APR-SEP	12.1	20	26	31	44	71	84
FLINT CREEK nr Southern Cross	APR-JUL	3.0	4.8	6.0	44	8.8	12.8	13.7
	APR-SEP	3.4	5.5	7.0	43	10.4	15.5	16.2
FLINT CREEK blw Boulder Ck	APR-JUL	14.8	22	27	48	37	53	56
	APR-SEP	21	30	36	51	48	67	71
LOWER WILLOW CK RES Inflow	APR-JUL	1.1	1.7	2.1	17	4.4	7.8	12.5
	APR-MAY	1.1	1.5	1.8	22	3.1	5.0	8.2
MF ROCK CREEK nr Philipsburg	APR-JUL	21	26	30	47	38	49	64
	APR-SEP	24	30	34	47	42	55	72
ROCK CREEK nr Clinton	APR-JUL	68	89	104	39	141	197	270
	APR-SEP	83	107	124	41	164	226	305
CLARK FORK abv Milltown	APR-JUL	126	179	215	36	325	485	605
	APR-SEP	156	218	260	37	380	560	705
NEVADA CREEK nr Helmville	APR-JUL	2.9	4.2	5.0	29	7.9	12.3	17.3
	APR-MAY	1.9	2.5	3.0	29	4.7	7.2	10.3
BLACKFOOT RIVER nr Bonner	APR-JUL	222	269	300	37	395	535	805
	APR-SEP	248	300	335	38	435	585	890
CLARK FORK abv Missoula	APR-JUL	393	466	515	37	665	885	1410
	APR-SEP	454	538	595	37	755	1005	1600

UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
EAST FORK ROCK CREEK	15.6	6.6	6.0	9.4
GEORGETOWN LAKE	31.0	28.1	28.8	26.6
LOWER WILLOW CREEK	4.9	1.8	1.4	2.0
NEVADA CREEK	12.6	4.6	4.7	5.2

UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
CLARK FORK ab FLINT CREEK	14	54	50
FLINT CREEK	6	49	45
ROCK CREEK	5	55	47
CLARK FORK ab BLACKFOOT	22	52	47
BLACKFOOT	16	49	45
UPPER CLARK FORK BASIN	36	50	47

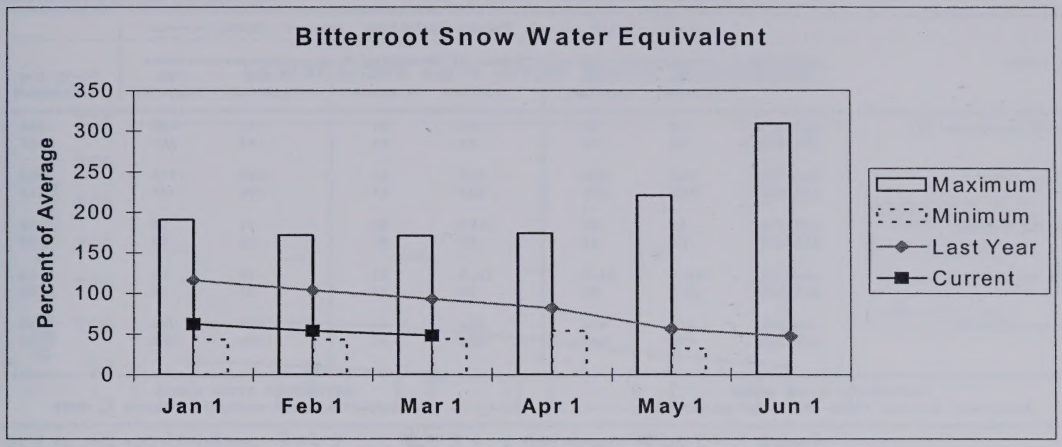
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

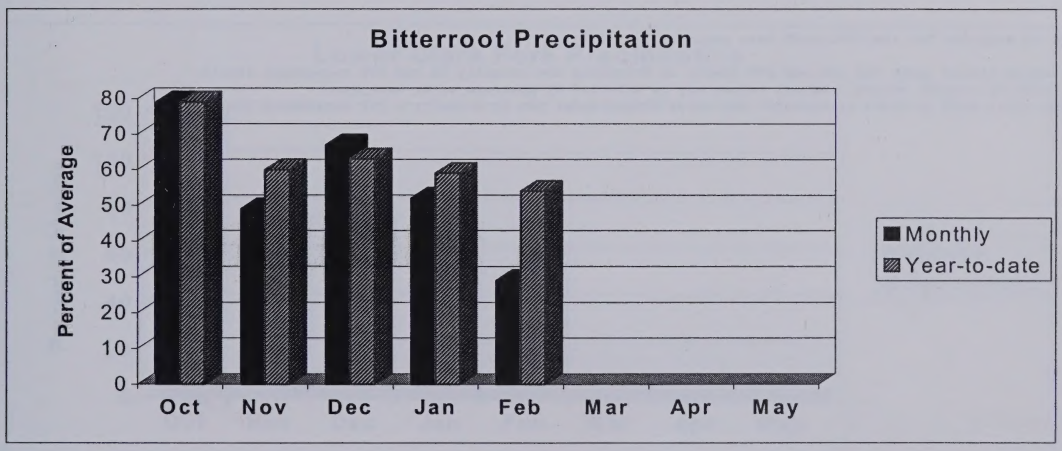
Bitterroot River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Bitterroot River Basin were severely below average and decreased 6 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 48 percent of average and 51 percent of last year and has tied 1977 for the record low. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 430 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 2001; May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1987; and June maximum swe was 1972 and 1974 and minimum swe was in 1987, 1992, 1994, and 2001. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain precipitation during February was 30 percent of average and 54 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 11 percent of average and 20 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 54 percent of average and 58 percent of last year.



Painted Rocks Lake storage was 94 percent of average and 127 percent of last year and Como storage was 146 percent of average and 221 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 42 percent to 47 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -4.0 in the Bitterroot River.

BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
WF BITTERROOT nr Conner (2)	APR-JUL	45	57	65	46	83	110	143
	APR-SEP	48	62	72	46	93	123	157
BITTERROOT nr Darby	APR-JUL	148	182	205	45	255	330	460
	APR-SEP	166	204	230	45	285	360	515
COMO RESERVOIR Inflow	APR-JUL	37	42	45	58	51	59	78
	APR-SEP	39	44	47	57	53	61	82
SKALKAHO CK nr Hamilton	APR-JUL	12.8	16.5	19.0	43	25	33	44
	APR-SEP	16.1	20	23	46	29	38	50
BITTERROOT at Missoula	APR-JUL	424	475	510	41	600	730	1250
	APR-SEP	470	527	565	41	660	805	1370

BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
PAINTED ROCKS LAKE	31.7	6.6	5.2	7.0
COMO	34.9	18.1	8.2	12.4

BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
WEST FORK BITTERROOT	3	51	46
EAST SIDE BITTERROOT	5	56	50
WEST SIDE BITTERROOT	3	49	48
BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN	10	51	48

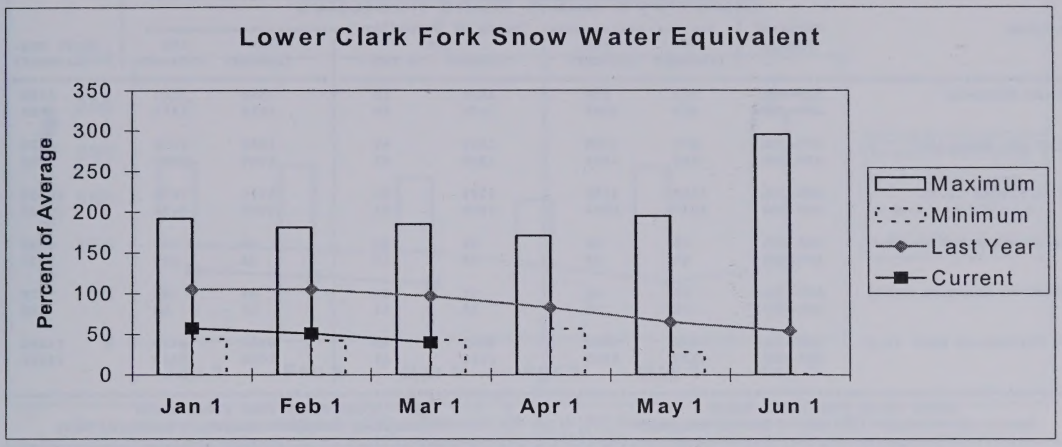
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

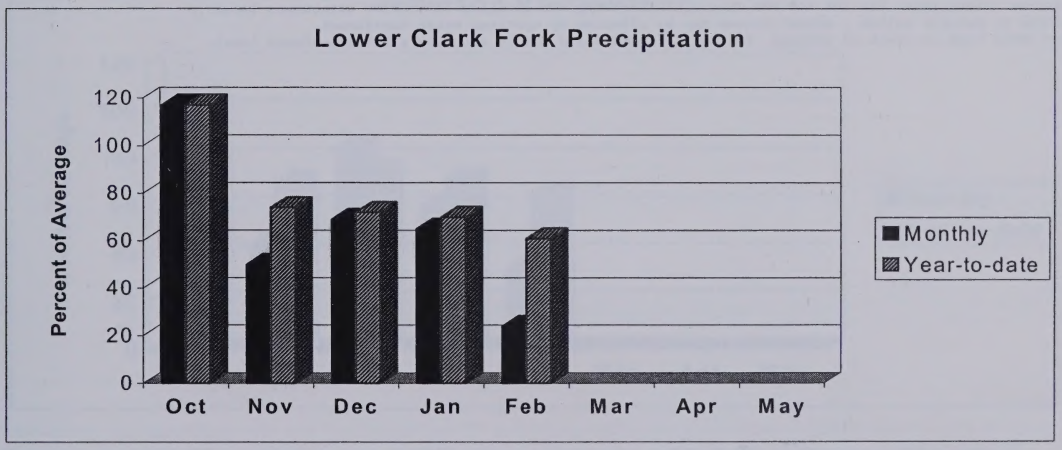
Lower Clark Fork River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Lower Clark Fork River Basin were severely below average and decreased 11 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 40 percent of average and 41 percent of last year and has set a new record low, which previously in 1977. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 440 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1981; May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1974 and minimum swe was in 1977. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain precipitation during February was 27 percent of average and 56 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 11 percent of average and 33 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 61 percent of average and 71 percent of last year.



Noxon Rapids storage was 101 percent of average and 92 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 36 percent to 39 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -4.0 in the Clark Fork River below Bitterroot River and -3.5 in the Clark Fork River below Flathead River.

LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
CLARK FORK blw Missoula	APR-JUL	827	948	1030	39	1260	1590	2660
	APR-SEP	927	1066	1160	39	1410	1770	2960
CLARK FORK at St. Regis (1)	APR-JUL	877	1195	1410	40	1800	2670	3520
	APR-SEP	994	1349	1590	41	2030	2990	3910
CLARK FORK nr Plains (1,2)	APR-JUL	4159	4755	5160	51	5940	7650	10100
	APR-SEP	4567	5224	5670	51	6530	8410	11100
THOMPSON nr Thompson Falls	APR-JUL	38	46	52	25	74	107	205
	APR-SEP	44	52	58	25	81	116	230
PROSPECT CREEK at Thompson Falls	APR-JUL	28	33	37	32	48	65	116
	APR-SEP	31	36	40	32	52	69	124
CLARK FK at Whitehorse Rpds (1,2)	APR-JUL	4392	5087	5560	49	6450	8420	11300
	APR-SEP	4824	5590	6110	49	7090	9260	12500

LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
NOXON RAPIDS	335.0	301.3	326.6	297.5

LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
LOWER CLARK FORK BASIN	11	42	40

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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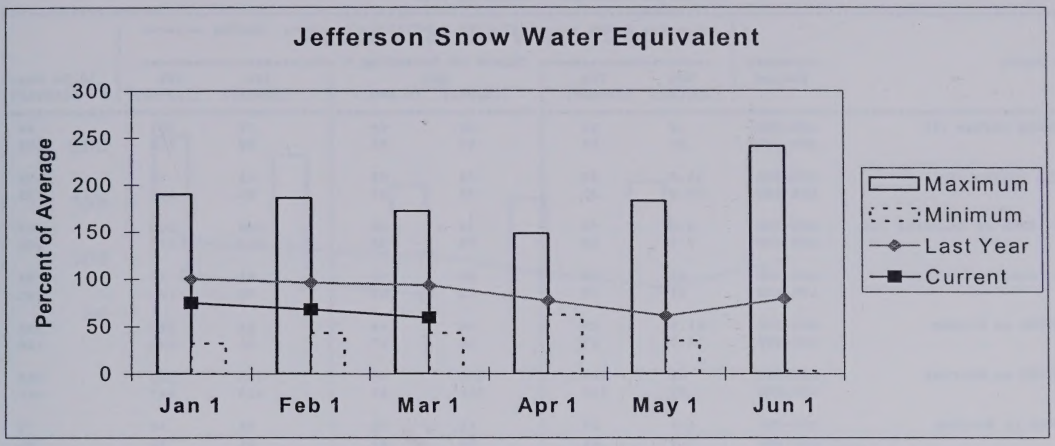
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

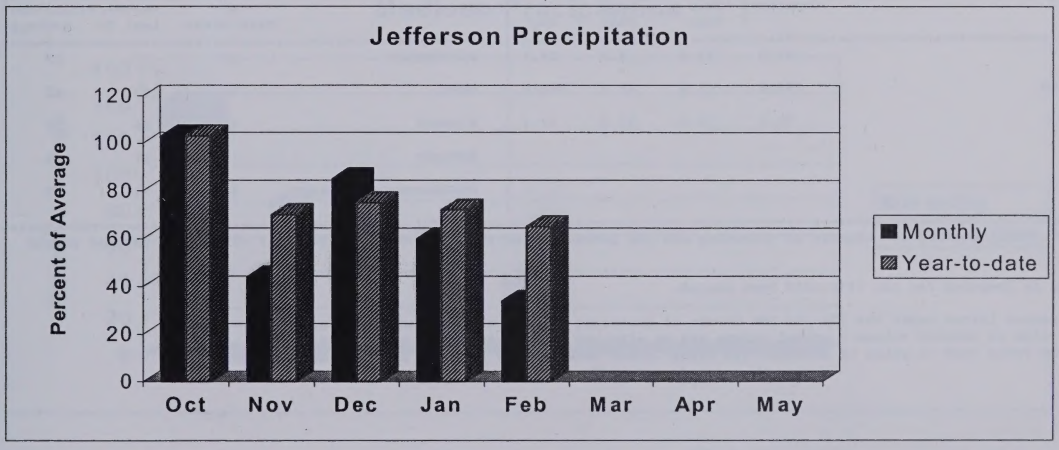
Jefferson River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Jefferson River Basin were well below average and decreased 9 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 59 percent of average and 63 percent of last year and second lowest of record which occurred in 1997. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 220 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; May maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1982 and minimum in 1987. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain precipitation during February was 35 percent of average and 39 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 28 percent of average and 20 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 65 percent of average and 70 percent of last year.



Canyon storage was 37 percent of average and 111 percent of last year; and Ruby River storage was 93 percent of average and 109 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 28 percent to 44 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -3.8 in the Beaverhead River; -3.0 in the Ruby River; -3.3 in the Big Hole River; -3.9 in the Boulder River; and -4.0 in the Jefferson River as a whole.

JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
LIMA RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	36	50	62	65	77	107	96
	APR-SEP	37	52	66	64	84	119	104
CLARK CANYON Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	11.0	20	29	22	42	74	131
	APR-SEP	19.0	32	45	29	64	106	156
BEAVERHEAD RIVER at Barretts (2)	APR-JUL	8.0	42	74	44	106	154	168
	APR-SEP	8.0	40	79	40	118	175	200
RUBY RIVER Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	22	39	50	60	61	78	84
	APR-SEP	31	49	62	61	75	93	101
BIG HOLE RIVER at Wisdom	APR-JUL	11.0	25	41	34	84	147	121
	APR-SEP	12.0	27	48	37	94	162	130
BIG HOLE RIVER nr Melrose	APR-JUL	48	183	275	45	365	500	610
	APR-SEP	63	210	310	47	410	555	660
BOULDER RIVER nr Boulder	APR-JUL	6.2	24	41	53	58	84	78
	APR-SEP	9.4	26	45	53	64	92	85
WILLOW CREEK Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	0.9	2.4	7.2	40	12.0	18.9	17.9
	APR-SEP	1.2	2.4	8.0	40	13.6	22	20
JEFFERSON RIVER nr Three Forks (2)	APR-JUL	39	155	290	37	425	620	780
	APR-SEP	43	180	320	37	460	670	860

JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
LIMA	84.0	39.6	8.2	35.7
CLARK CANYON	255.6	53.5	48.4	144.2
RUBY RIVER	38.8	25.4	23.2	27.4

JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
BEAVERHEAD	16	74	69
RUBY	11	63	62
BIGHOLE	15	58	50
BOULDER	9	51	48
JEFFERSON RIVER BASIN	43	63	59

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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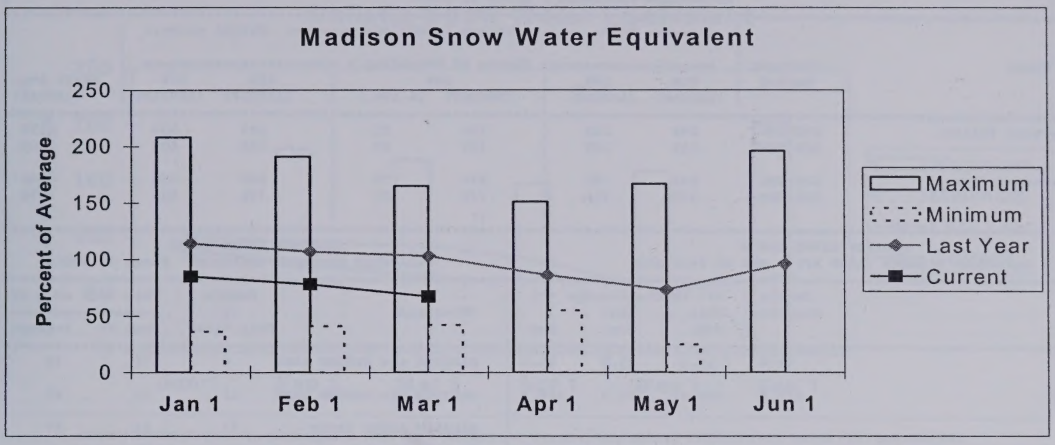
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

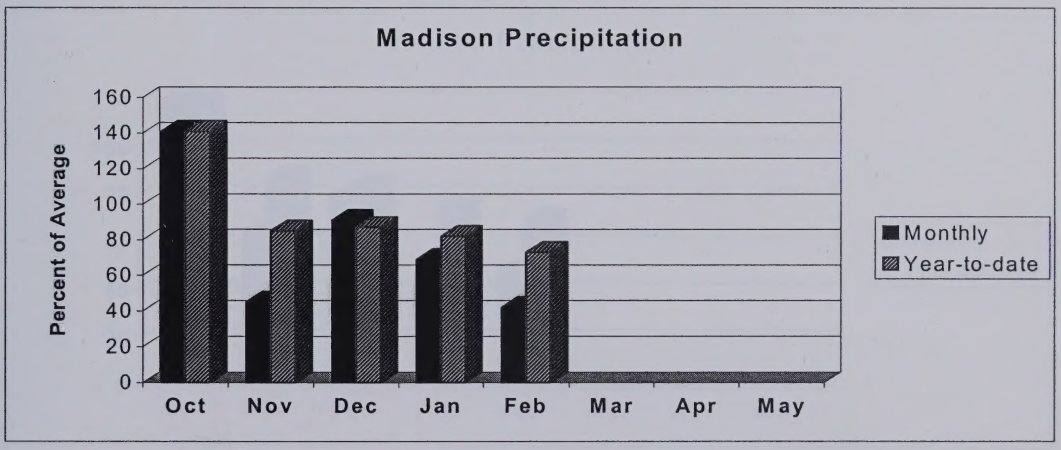
Madison River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Madison River Basin were well below average and decreased 11 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 67 percent of average and 65 percent of last year and are fourth lowest of record, which occurred in 1997. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 200 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; May maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1995 and minimum in 2001. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February was 42 percent of average and 41 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 73 percent of average and 71 percent of last year.



Ennis Lake storage was 94 percent of average and 101 percent of last year and Hebgen Lake storage was 113 percent of average and 105 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 72 percent to 80 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -1.8 for the Madison River.

MADISON RIVER BASIN

Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
HEBGEN Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	240	285	315	81	345	390	390
	APR-SEP	315	365	400	80	435	485	500
ENNIS Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	405	480	530	78	580	655	680
	APR-SEP	525	615	675	79	735	825	850

MADISON RIVER BASIN

Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
ENNIS LAKE	41.0	29.6	29.2	31.4
HEBGEN LAKE	377.5	298.4	283.9	265.2

MADISON RIVER BASIN

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
MADISON abv HEBGEN LAKE	5	70	75
MADISON blw HEBGEN LAKE	12	63	63
MADISON RIVER BASIN	17	65	67

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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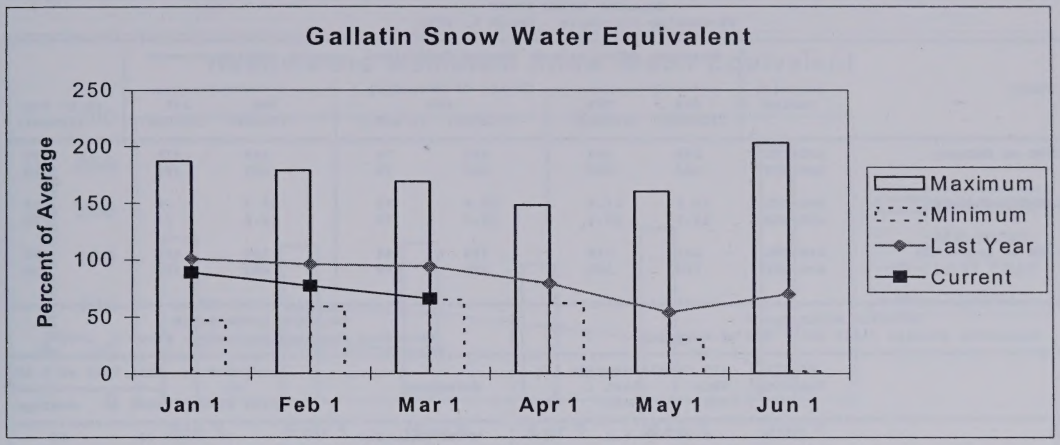
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

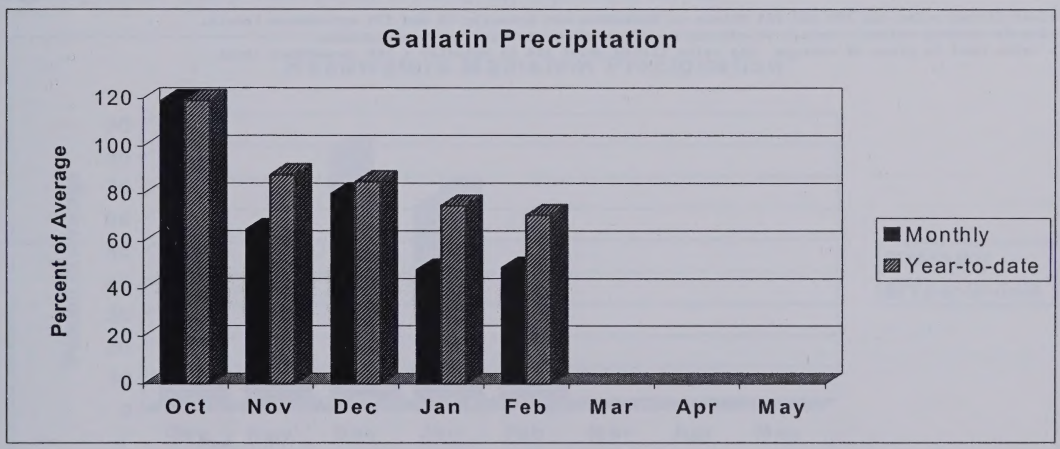
Gallatin River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Gallatin River Basin were well below average and decreased 11 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 66 percent of average and 70 percent of last year and has tied the record low that occurred in 1977. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 180 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1966; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977; March maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 1977 and 1987; April maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum was in 2001; May maximum swe was in 1970 and minimum swe was in 1987; and June maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum in 2001. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain precipitation during February was 47 percent of average and 46 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 69 percent of average and 47 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 71 percent of average and 74 percent of last year.



Middle Creek storage was 151 percent of average and 113 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 59 percent to 70 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -3.5 for the Gallatin River.

GALLATIN RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
GALLATIN RIVER nr Gateway	APR-JUL	235	290	325	74	360	415	440
	APR-SEP	280	345	385	75	425	490	515
HYALITE RESERVOIR Inflow	APR-JUL	10.5	13.5	15.6	71	17.7	21	22
	APR-SEP	12.2	15.4	17.6	70	19.8	23	25
GALLATIN RIVER at Logan (2)	APR-JUL	139	245	315	64	385	490	495
	APR-SEP	185	300	380	67	460	575	570

GALLATIN RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
MIDDLE CREEK	10.2	6.8	6.0	4.5

GALLATIN RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
UPPER GALLATIN	7	68	66
HYALITE	4	72	62
BRIDGER	3	76	72
GALLATIN RIVER BASIN	14	70	66

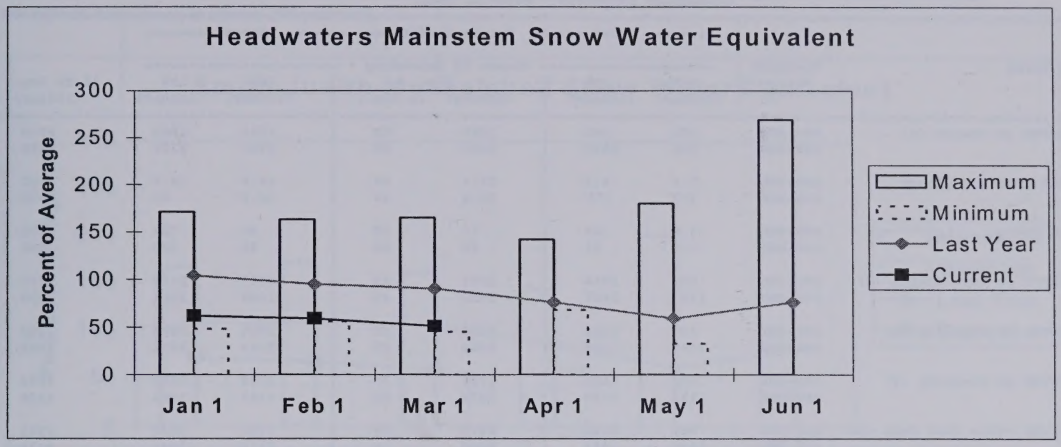
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

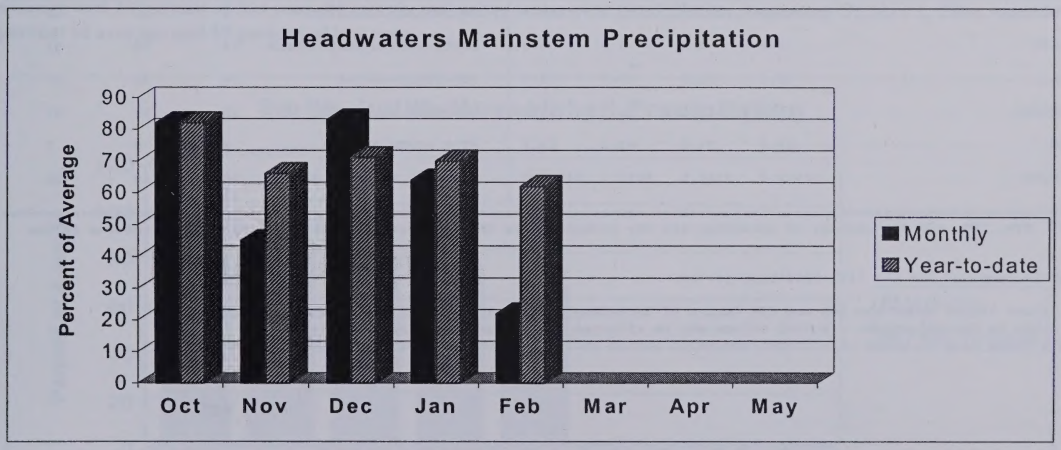
Missouri Mainstem River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Headwaters Missouri Mainstem River Basin were well below average and decreased 8 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 51 percent of average and 56 percent of last year and was second lowest of record, which occurred in 1977. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 240 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe in 1977; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; March maximum swe in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1961 and 1966; May maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1975 and minimum swe was in 1992. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain precipitation during February was 13 percent of average and 22 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 22 percent of average and 33 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 62 percent of average and 59 percent of last year.



Canyon Ferry Lake storage was 91 percent of average and 99 percent of last year; Helena Valley storage was 128 percent of average and 116 percent of last year; Lake Helena storage was 81 percent of average and 100 percent of last year; Hauser & Helena storage was 117 percent of average and 100 percent of last year; Holter Lake storage was 104 percent of average and 100 percent of last year; and Fort Peck Lake storage was 59 percent of average and 91 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 44 percent to 58 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -3.2 in the Missouri River above Canyon Ferry; -4.0 in the Missouri River below Canyon Ferry; -3.2 in the Missouri River above Fort Peck; and -4.0 in the Missouri River below Fort Peck.

MISSOURI MAINSTEM RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
MISSOURI RIVER at Toston (2)	APR-JUL	560	960	1230	60	1500	1900	2050
	APR-SEP	655	1120	1440	60	1760	2220	2390
PRICKLY PEAR CREEK nr Clancy	APR-JUL	1.9	6.8	10.4	50	14.0	19.5	21
	APR-SEP	1.7	7.9	12.2	49	16.5	23	25
DEARBORN nr Craig	APR-JUL	6.0	30	60	50	90	135	121
	APR-SEP	5.0	31	62	50	93	139	125
MISSOURI RIVER at Fort Benton (2)	APR-JUL	961	1544	1940	65	2337	2917	2990
	APR-SEP	1140	1857	2330	65	2801	3501	3570
MISSOURI RIVER at Virgelle (2)	APR-JUL	965	1683	2140	62	2595	3270	3450
	APR-SEP	1140	1962	2500	62	3036	3831	4060
MISSOURI RIVER nr Landusky (2)	APR-JUL	972	1691	2180	59	2670	3390	3690
	APR-SEP	1130	1994	2570	59	3146	3991	4350
MISSOURI RIVER below Fort Peck (2)	APR-JUL	985	1714	2210	59	2706	3436	3740
	APR-SEP	1080	1966	2540	59	3116	3961	4330
LAKE SAKAKAWEA Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	3900	5160	6040	62	7334	9234	9740
	APR-SEP	4480	5940	6900	62	8381	10571	11200

MISSOURI MAINSTEM RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
CANYON FERRY LAKE	2043.0	1377.0	1385.0	1509.4
HELENA VALLEY	9.2	5.1	4.4	4.0
LAKE HELENA	10.4	10.9	10.9	13.4
HAUSER & HELENA	61.9	74.0	74.0	63.0
HOLTER LAKE	81.9	81.0	81.3	77.6
FORT PECK LAKE	18910.0	8740.0	9606.0	14728.0

MISSOURI MAINSTEM RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
HEADWATERS MAINSTEM	9	56	51
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	14	55	59
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	14	44	37
MAINSTEM ab FT PECK RES	36	51	47
MILK RIVER BASIN	4	0	0
MISSOURI MAINSTEM BASIN	39	48	45

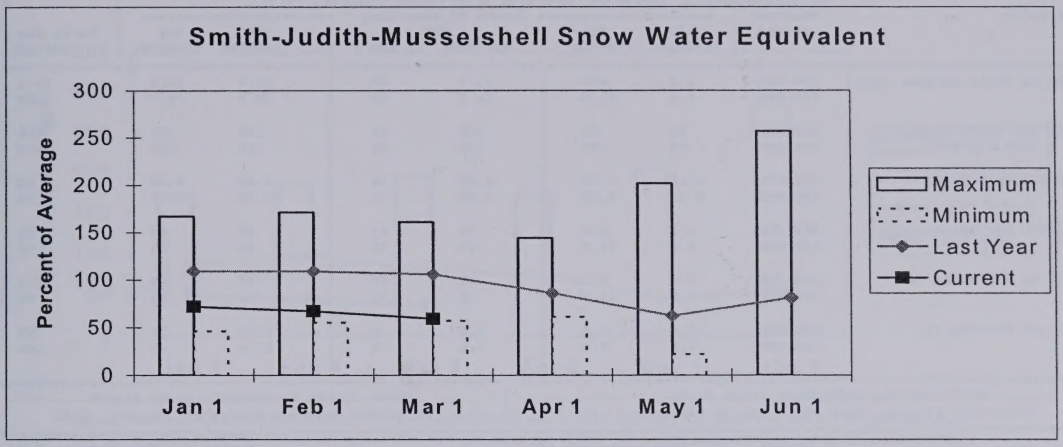
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

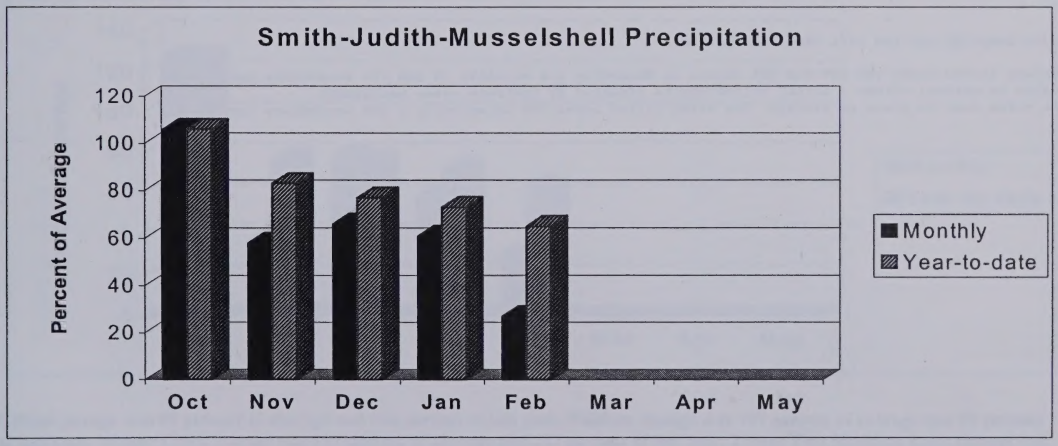
Smith-Judith-Musselshell River Basins

Snowpack conditions in the Smith-Judith-Musselshell River Basins were well below average and decreased 8 percent from February 1. Snow water content in the Smith River Basin was 60 percent of average and 62 percent of last year; in the Judith River Basin was 62 percent of average and 54 percent of last year; and in the Musselshell Basin River was 53 percent of average and 54 percent of last year. The combined basins of Smith-Judith-Musselshell basins have tied the previous record low year of 1987. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 250 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe in 1988; February maximum swe was in 1978 and minimum swe was in 1987; March maximum swe was in 1978 and minimum swe was in 1987; April maximum swe was in 1970 and minimum swe was in 1992; and May maximum swe was in 1970 and minimum swe was in 1987; and June maximum swe was in 1967 and minimum swe was in 1987, 1992, 1994, and 2001. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February in the Smith-Belts was 27 percent of average and 36 percent of last year; in the Judith was 27 percent of average and 29 percent of last year; and in the Musselshell was 25 percent of average and 33 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 65 percent of average and 59 percent of last year.



Smith River storage was 100 percent of average and 135 percent of last year; Bair storage was 78 percent of average and 163 percent of last year; Martinsdale storage was 30 percent of average and 115 percent of last year; and Deadman's Basin was 37 percent of average and 101 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 27 percent to 42 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -4.0 in the Smith River and -3.1 in the Musselshell River.

SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
SHEEP CREEK nr White Sulphur Spgs.	APR-JUL	6.8	9.7	11.7	68	13.7	16.6	17.1
	APR-SEP	8.5	11.8	14.1	71	16.4	19.7	20
SMITH RIVER abv Eagle Creek	APR-JUL	53	84	105	60	126	157	175
	APR-SEP	68	107	134	64	161	200	210
NF MUSSELSHELL nr Delpine	APR-JUL	0.41	1.40	2.40	52	3.40	4.90	4.60
	APR-SEP	0.43	1.90	3.00	56	4.10	5.80	5.40
SF MUSSELSHELL abv Martinsdale	APR-JUL	0.5	8.0	22	42	36	56	52
	APR-SEP	1.1	10.0	25	45	40	61	56
MUSSELSHELL at Harlowton (2)	APR-JUL	5.4	9.2	22	29	35	53	77
	APR-SEP	6.5	12.1	25	31	38	57	81
MUSSELSHELL nr Roundup (2)	APR-JUL	0.0	0.0	1.6	2	13.9	74	99
	APR-SEP	0.0	0.0	1.0	1	11.0	68	102

SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
SMITH RIVER	10.6	6.6	4.9	6.6
BAIR	7.0	3.1	1.9	4.0
MARTINSDALE	23.1	3.1	2.7	10.2
DEADMAN'S BASIN	72.2	18.4	18.2	49.8

SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
SMITH	8	63	61
JUDITH	6	55	62
MUSSELSHELL	5	54	53
SMITH-JUDITH-MUSSELSHELL	14	55	59

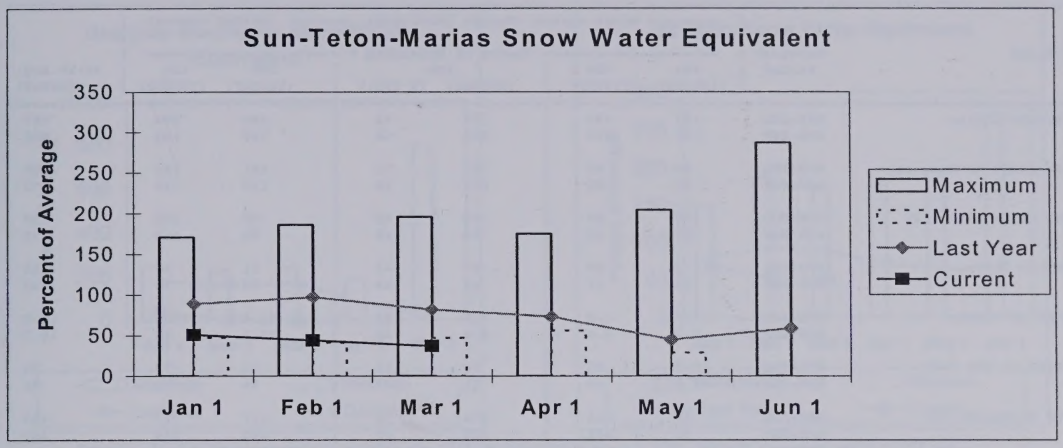
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

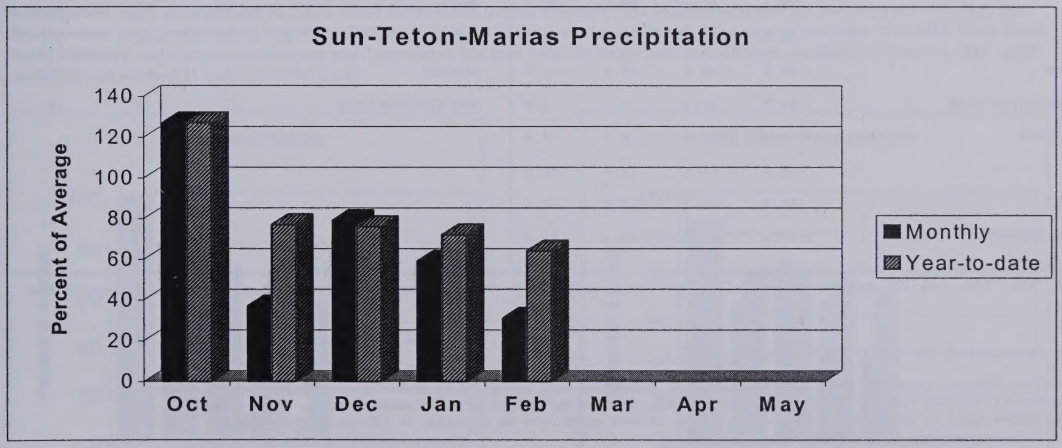
Sun-Teton-Marias River Basins

Snowpack conditions in the Sun-Teton-Marias River Basins were severely below average and decreased 7 percent from February 1. Snow water content in the Sun River Basin was 40 percent of average and 43 percent of last year; in the Teton River Basin was 34 percent of average and 41 percent of last year; and in the Marias River Basin was 35 percent of average and 45 percent of last year and has set a new record low, previously set in 1984. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 360 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1988; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 2001; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1984; April maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1984; May maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1987, 1992, and 1998. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February in the Sun was 21 percent of average and 53 percent of last year; in the Teton was 35 percent of average and 105 percent of last year; and in the Marias was 33 percent of average and 101 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 64 percent of average and 76 percent of last year.



Gibson storage was 89 percent of average and 186 percent of last year; Pishkun storage was 107 percent of average and 99 percent of last year; Willow Creek storage was 117 percent of average and 137 percent of last year; Lower Two Medicine Lake storage was 136 percent of average; Four Horns Lake storage was 115 percent of average; Swift storage was 130 percent of average and 124 percent of last year; Lake Frances storage was 53 percent of average and 138 percent of last year; and Lake Elwell (Tiber) storage was 112 percent of average and 97 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 36 percent to 50 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -4.0 in the Sun River; -4.0 in the Teton River; -3.4 in the Birch/Dupuyer Creeks; and -3.9 in the Marias River above Tiber Reservoir; and -3.5 in the Marias River below Tiber Reservoir.

SUN-TETON-MARIAS RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
GIBSON Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	122	190	235	51	280	350	460
	APR-SEP	153	225	270	54	315	385	505
TWO MEDICINE RIVER nr Browning	APR-JUL	40	83	112	55	141	184	205
	APR-SEP	48	92	121	56	150	194	215
BADGER CREEK nr Browning (2)	APR-JUL	29	50	65	66	80	101	99
	APR-SEP	40	62	78	68	94	116	115
SWIFT RESERVOIR Inflow	APR-JUL	12.2	29	40	63	51	68	64
	APR-SEP	20	37	49	64	61	78	77
DUPUYER CREEK nr Valier	APR-JUL	1.7	4.5	7.4	53	13.8	23	14.0
	APR-SEP	2.7	6.0	8.4	54	15.3	25	15.7
CUT BANK CREEK at Cut Bank	APR-JUL	15.8	33	44	54	55	72	81
	APR-SEP	19.5	38	51	57	64	82	90
MARIAS RIVER nr Shelby (2)	APR-JUL	20	111	173	42	237	327	415
	APR-SEP	32	123	185	42	245	340	440
TETON nr Dutton	APR-JUL	0.5	4.6	7.0	14	11.7	29	51
	APR-SEP	0.6	4.7	8.2	14	14.8	36	59

SUN-TETON-MARIAS RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
GIBSON	99.1	44.3	23.8	49.7
PISHKUN	32.0	18.9	19.0	17.6
WILLOW CREEK	32.2	26.8	19.5	23.0
LOWER TWO MEDICINE LAKE	11.9	12.1	0.0	8.9
FOUR HORNS LAKE	19.2	13.8	0.2	12.0
SWIFT	30.0	21.5	17.4	16.5
LAKE FRANCES	112.0	35.2	25.5	66.8
LAKE ELWELL (TIBER)	1347.0	704.8	729.1	631.9

SUN-TETON-MARIAS RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
SUN	7	43	40
TETON	4	41	34
MARIAS	6	45	34
SUN-TETON-MARIAS	15	46	39

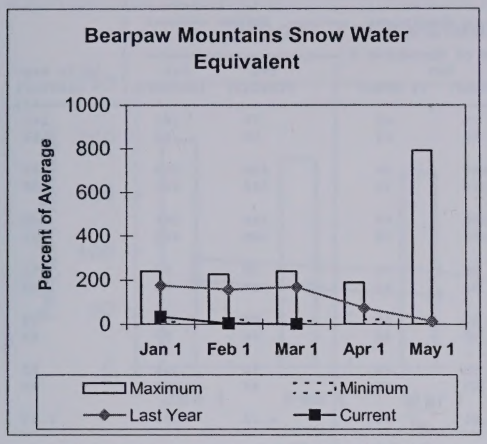
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

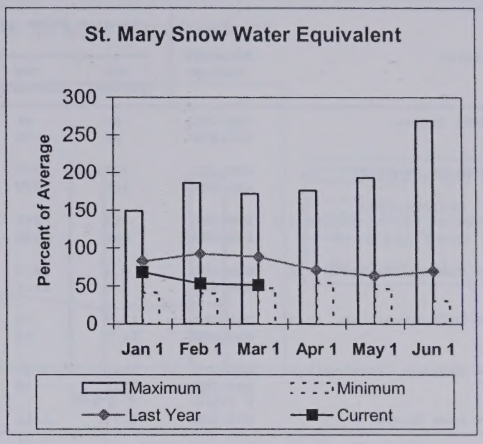
The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

St. Mary and Milk River Basins

Snowpack conditions in the St. Mary and Milk River Basins were severely below average and decreased 12 percent from February 1. Snow water content in the St. Mary River Basin was 51 percent of average and 51 percent of last year. The Bearpaw Mountains have melted out. The Cypress Hills in Canada were 14 percent of average. The St. Mary and Milk combined basins have set a new record low previously set in 1977. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 530 recent.

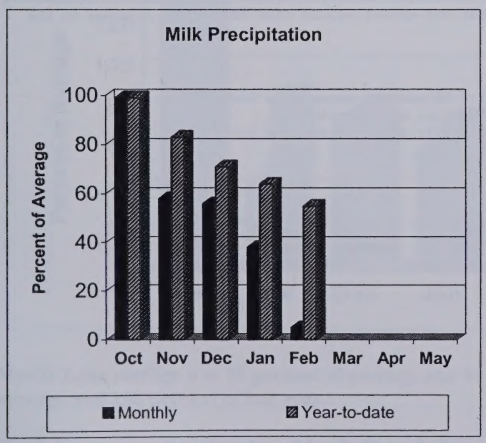


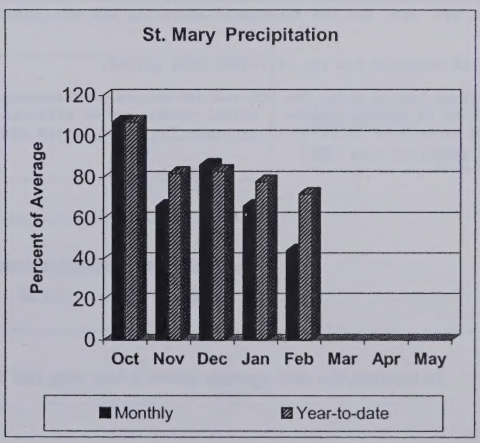


Bearpaw - January maximum swe was established in 1978 and minimum swe was in 1981; February maximum swe was 1978 and minimum was in 1973; March maximum swe was 1978 and minimum swe was 1995; April maximum swe was in 1985 and minimum swe was in 1973, 1983, and 1986; May maximum swe was 1975 and the minimum, 0.0, has occurred in several years. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

St. Mary - January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1988; February maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 2001; March maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was in 1977; April maximum swe was in 1967 and 1972 and minimum swe was in 2001; May maximum swe was in 19972 and minimum swe was in 1977; and June maximum swe was in 1972 and minimum swe was 1992. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain and valley precipitation in the St. Mary River Basin during February was 44 percent of average and 120 percent of last year with the water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, at 72 percent of average and 87 percent of last year. The Milk River Basin during February was 5 percent of average and 7 percent of last year with the water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, at 55 percent of average and 41 percent of last year.





Lake Sherburne storage was 159 percent of average and 301 percent of last year; Fresno storage was 72 percent of average and 251 percent of last year; Beaver Creek storage was 130 percent of average and 136 percent of last year; and Nelson storage was 143 percent of average and 188 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 47 percent to 60 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -1.9 for the Milk River.

ST. MARY and MILK RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
LAKE SHERBURNE Inflow	APR-JUL	57	65	71	68	77	85	105
	APR-SEP	63	72	79	65	86	95	122
ST. MARY RIVER nr Babb (2)	APR-JUL	205	235	260	68	285	315	385
	APR-SEP	250	290	315	70	340	380	450
ST. MARY RIVER at US/CAN Border (2)	APR-JUL	200	245	280	64	315	360	435
	APR-SEP	260	315	350	68	385	440	515
MILK RIVER @ Western Crossing (3)	MAR-JUL	8.2	18.5	26	63	40	55	41
	MAR-SEP	8.2	19.4	28	65	43	59	43
MILK RIVER @ Milk River, AB (2,3)	MAR-JUL	12.2	28	42	65	60	83	64
	MAR-SEP	12.5	29	46	66	66	90	69
MILK RIVER @ Eastern Crossing(2,3)	MAR-JUL	15.8	37	53	64	80	110	83
	MAR-SEP	15.8	38	57	65	86	120	88
BEAVER CREEK near Havre	MAR-JUL	0.77	1.44	2.90	30	4.90	7.90	9.60

ST. MARY and MILK RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
LAKE SHERBURNE	64.3	45.5	15.1	28.6
FRESNO	127.0	37.2	14.8	52.0
BEAVER CREEK	3.5	3.0	2.2	2.3
NELSON	66.8	47.3	25.2	33.1

ST. MARY and MILK RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
ST. MARY	3	48	43
BEARPAW MOUNTAINS	4	0	0
CYPRESS HILLS, CANADA	0	0	0
MILK RIVER BASIN	4	0	0
ST. MARY & MILK BASINS	7	42	36

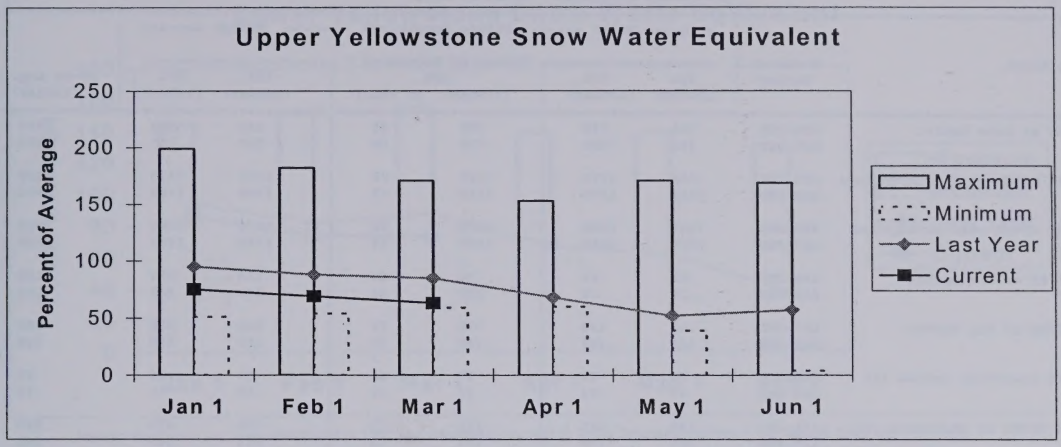
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

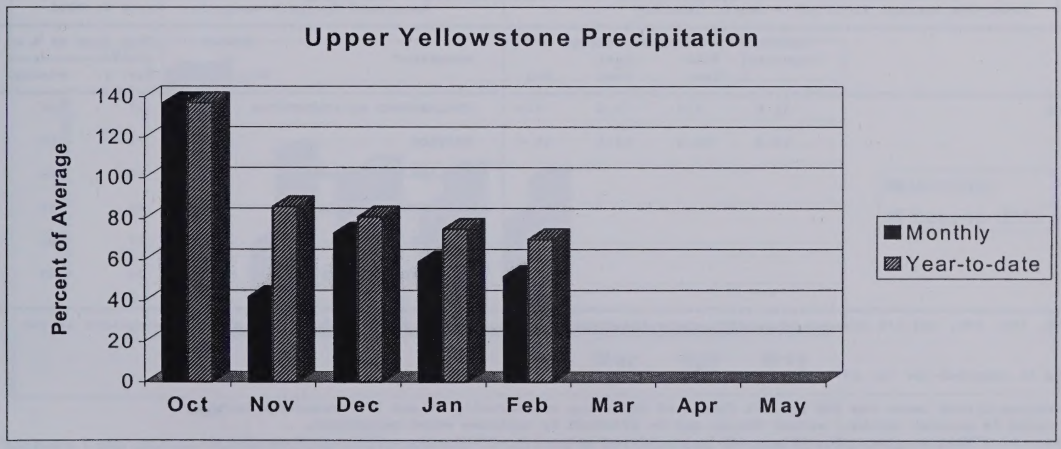
Upper Yellowstone River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Upper Yellowstone River Basin were well below average and decreased 6 percent from February 1. Snow water content was 63 percent of average and 72 percent of last year and second lowest of record which occurred in 2001. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 230 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1988; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 2001; March maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 2001; April maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 2001; May maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1987; and June maximum swe was 1996 and minimum swe was in 2001. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain precipitation during February was 54 percent of average and 71 percent of last year. Valley precipitation during February was 30 percent of average and 22 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 70 percent of average and 79 percent of last year.



Mystic Lake storage was 58 percent of average and 64 percent of last year and Cooney storage was 130 percent of average and 118 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 59 percent to 69 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -3.1 in the Yellowstone River above Livingston; -2.9 in the Shields River; -3.6 in the Boulder River; -3.4 in the Stillwater River; -3.6 in the Rock/Red lodge Creeks; -3.8 in the Clarks Fork River; and -3.3 in the Yellowstone River above Bighorn River.

UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
YELLOWSTONE at Lake Outlet	APR-JUL	245	330	385	65	440	525	590
	APR-SEP	345	455	530	66	605	715	805
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Corwin Springs	APR-JUL	905	1070	1190	72	1310	1470	1650
	APR-SEP	1100	1300	1430	73	1560	1760	1970
YELLOWSTONE RIVER near Livingston	APR-JUL	1120	1260	1360	72	1460	1600	1900
	APR-SEP	1370	1540	1650	72	1760	1930	2280
SHIELDS RIVER nr Livingston	APR-JUL	20	62	90	62	118	160	145
	APR-SEP	21	69	102	63	135	183	162
BOULDER RIVER at Big Timber	APR-JUL	147	195	225	79	255	305	285
	APR-SEP	161	210	245	78	280	330	315
MYSTIC LAKE Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	36	43	47	80	51	58	59
	APR-SEP	47	54	59	78	64	71	76
STILLWATER RIVER nr Absarokee (2)	APR-JUL	250	315	360	73	405	470	495
	APR-SEP	305	375	425	73	475	545	585
CLARKS FORK RIVER nr Belfry	APR-JUL	260	315	350	65	385	440	540
	APR-SEP	280	335	375	63	415	470	595
COONEY RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	2.3	16.0	27	57	38	54	47
	APR-SEP	7.1	24	35	61	46	63	57
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Billings (2)	APR-JUL	1470	2020	2390	68	2760	3310	3510
	APR-SEP	1720	2360	2800	68	3240	3880	4120

UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
MYSTIC LAKE	21.0	2.3	3.6	4.0
COONEY	27.4	21.3	18.1	16.4

UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
YELLOWSTONE ab LIVINGSTON	18	77	64
SHIELDS	5	71	70
BOULDER-STILLWATER	4	65	68
RED LODGE-ROCK CREEK	6	49	45
CLARK'S FORK	7	77	61
UPPER YELLOWSTONE BASIN	36	72	63

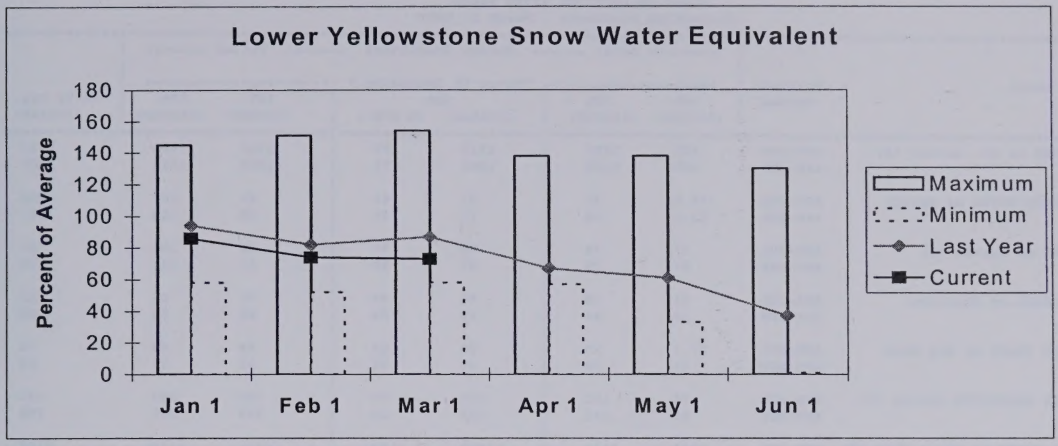
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

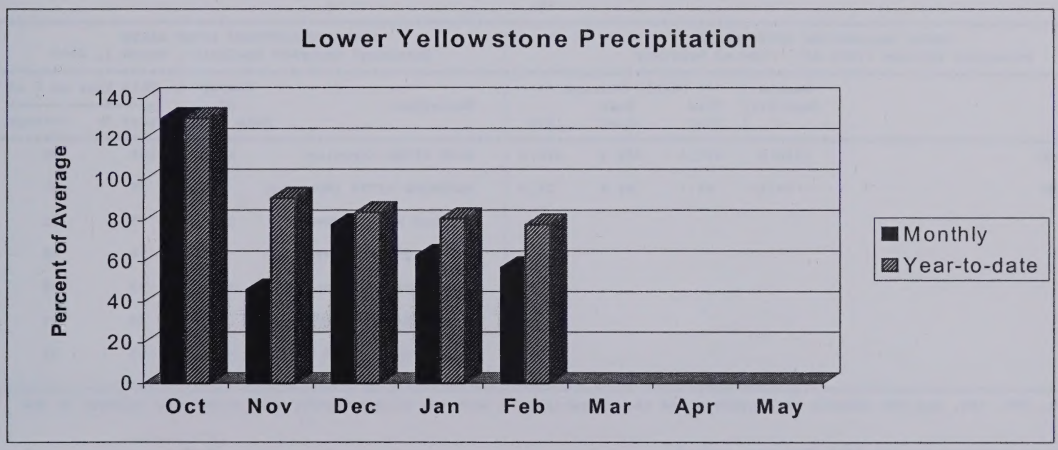
Lower Yellowstone River Basin

Snowpack conditions in the Lower Yellowstone River Basin were below average. Snow water content was 73 percent of average and 83 percent of last year and fourth lowest of record. Percent of average snow water content required to reach the normal snowpack maximum is about 180 percent.



January maximum swe was established in 1997 and minimum swe was in 2000; February maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 2001; March maximum swe was in 1986 and minimum swe was in 2001; April maximum swe was in 1986 and minimum swe was in 2001; May maximum swe was in 1997 and minimum swe was in 1981; and June maximum swe was in 1995 and minimum swe was in 2001. Average is for the period 1971 through 2000.

Mountain and valley precipitation during February was 57 percent of average and 46 percent of last year. Mountain and valley water year precipitation, beginning October 1, 2004, was 78 percent of average and 86 percent of last year.



Bighorn Lake storage was 80 percent of average and 96 percent of last year and Tongue River storage was 171 percent of average and 90 percent of last year.

Assuming average precipitation, March through July, April through July streamflows are forecast to average 57 percent to 71 percent.

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) was -1.2 in the Bighorn River below Bighorn Lake; -2.9 in the Little Bighorn River; -2.4 in the Yellowstone River below Bighorn River; -2.4 in the Tongue River; and -1.7 in the Powder River.

LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
BIGHORN RIVER nr St. Xavier (2)	APR-JUL	820	1070	1240	77	1410	1660	1610
	APR-SEP	890	1160	1350	77	1540	1810	1760
LITTLE BIGHORN RIVER nr Hardin	APR-JUL	15.0	43	63	49	83	105	128
	APR-SEP	19.0	49	71	49	94	118	144
TONGUE RIVER nr Dayton (2)	APR-JUL	47	64	75	78	86	103	96
	APR-SEP	57	75	87	80	99	117	109
BIG GOOSE CREEK nr Sheridan	APR-JUL	21	35	44	85	53	67	52
	APR-SEP	28	42	51	85	60	74	60
LITTLE GOOSE CREEK nr Big Horn	APR-JUL	17.7	24	29	85	34	40	34
	APR-SEP	21	29	34	81	39	47	42
TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	76	132	170	77	209	264	220
	APR-SEP	89	148	189	76	229	289	250
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Miles City (2)	APR-JUL	2300	3130	3700	69	4270	5100	5360
	APR-SEP	2670	3640	4300	69	4960	5930	6210
POWDER RIVER at Moorehead	APR-JUL	58	119	160	78	199	264	205
	APR-SEP	69	138	180	78	222	282	230
POWDER RIVER near Locate	APR-JUL	124	161	186	79	210	250	235
	APR-SEP	137	177	205	79	235	275	260
YELLOWSTONE RIVER nr Sidney (2)	APR-JUL	2230	3090	3670	67	4250	5110	5480
	APR-SEP	2550	3530	4200	67	4870	5850	6280

LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
BIGHORN LAKE	1356.0	657.3	683.4	826.3
TONGUE RIVER	79.1	42.1	46.8	24.6

LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
WIND RIVER (Wyoming)	19	101	85
SHOSHONE RIVER (Wyoming)	7	77	57
BIGHORN RIVER (Wyoming)	21	75	63
LITTLE BIGHORN (Wyoming)	3	78	68
TONGUE RIVER (Wyoming)	11	73	70
POWDER RIVER (Wyoming)	9	69	70
LOWER YELLOWSTONE BASIN (	49	83	73

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average. The value listed under 30% is actually a 25% exceedance level.

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Montana
Water Supply Outlook Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Bozeman, MT